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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 34 | WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2010 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you and your loved one plan to stay in, eat out, or do a little of both this Valentine's Day?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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Nuke-Free

Kim Jong Il assures that Pyongyang is committed to a nuclear-free Korean peninsula.

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Iran Nukes

Iran presses ahead with plans that will increase its ability to make nuclear weapons.

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Most Watched

The New Orleans Saints' victory over Indianapolis was watched by more than 106 million people.

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Social, economic impacts of Guam buildup are the 'biggest concerns'

Fitial considers islands 'homeport' for Army joint high-speed vessels

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho and CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial cited socio-economic impacts as the "biggest" concerns about the massive military buildup in the region, including the lack of funding sources to cushion negative effects to the civilian community worth at least $3 billion in Guam alone and an expected decrease in tourist arrivals on Tinian as a result of increased military presence there.

> *"We need to be very careful and understand what we are getting into... We don't want to rush into something we don't understand."*
> **—CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial**

Guam and the CNMI are racing against time to beat the Feb. 17 deadline for submitting comments on the military buildup's draft environmental impact statement.

The general concern so far is the socio-economic impacts to both Guam and the CNMI, followed by environmental concerns, Camacho and Fitial said.

"We need to be very careful and understand what we are getting into… We don't want to rush into something we don't understand," Fitial said.

He said the CNMI is "lucky"

See SOCIO on Page 4

5-hour power blackout hits southern Saipan

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A lengthy power outage hit the southern part of Saipan Monday night after a cable leading to one of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. transformers exploded, leaving residents and commercial offices in the dark from one to five hours.

CUC assistant executive director Abe Utu Malae described Monday's power interruption as a serious outage because it occurred in one of the two large substation transformers.

He said one of the twelve 13.8 kilovolt "termination cables" leading out to Transformer One exploded and the insulation blew open at

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FITIAL, CAMACHO SIGN MOU

103 NMI recruits for Guam Guard so far

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

At least 103 young men and women in the CNMI have so far been recruited to become members of the Guam National Guard even before CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho formally signed yesterday a memorandum of understanding allowing the Guam Guard to recruit in the Commonwealth for the first time.

Maj. Gen. Donald J. Goldhorn, the adjutant general of the Guam National Guard, witnessed the MOU signing in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill, along with members of the Guam Guard and members of the CNMI Military Integration Management Committee.

The MOU also provides the soldier recruits with pre-basic training on Saipan, but recruitment is also open to those on Rota and Tinian.

The "pioneer" recruits from the CNMI will be training on island after their initial enlistment in March.

"There's much to be said why we're here. The main reason is to give CNMI young peo-

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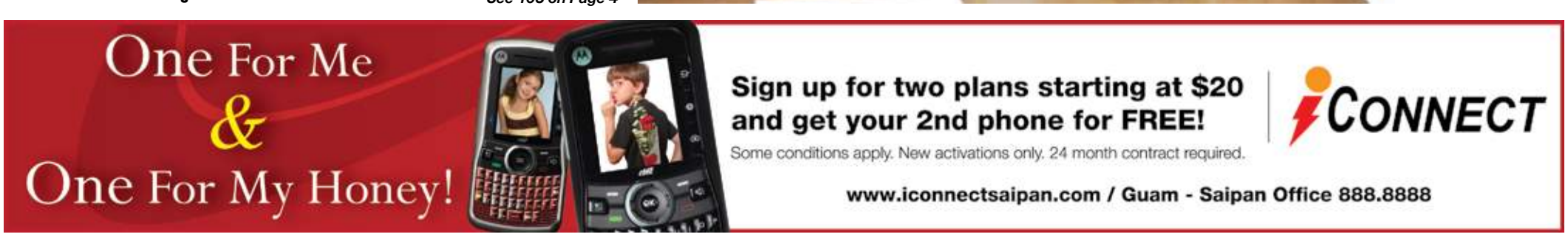
CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, left, signs a memorandum of understanding allowing the Guam National Guard to recruit in the Commonwealth for the first time while Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho, right, waits for his turn to sign the document during a brief ceremony yesterday on Capital Hill. Maj. Gen. Donald J. Goldhorn, the adjutant general of the Guam National Guard, members of the Guam Guard and the CNMI Military Integration Management Committee witnessed the MOU signing.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO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GARAPAN CLEANUP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ms. Sato Toshiko, center, a Japanese tourist who visits Saipan four times a year, joins PDM Promoters for cleanups each time she is here. This time the group met Saturday, Feb. 6, from 9am to 11am and collected 440 lbs of trash in the Garapan area. Kudos to PDM Promoters! And a very big thank you to Ms. Toshiko! Join PDM Promoters in one of their regular cleanups! Volunteers get together to clean up once a month every first Saturday of the month from 9am to 11am.

Local

Fitial accused of maneuvering schedule to favor Rebuenog

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A group that supports Northern Islands mayoralty bet Tobias Aldan raised some issues with the Election Commission board yesterday, enumerating several "concerns" about the upcoming special poll on the island.

Led by Jocelyn Kaipat Aldan-Kapileo, the group claimed that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial maneuvered last Friday's proclamation by setting a tight registration schedule to favor Covenant Party candidate Ramona Rebuenog.

The proclamation was signed just one day prior to the voters' registration deadline set on the signed document.

"Nobody was informed or made aware of this voters' registration [last Saturday]. Now that the schedule is over, what will happen to those who wanted to be counted? Is there any proper public education conducted on these dates?" the group asked, adding that they only learned of these dates yesterday.

Board chair Frances Sablan admitted during yesterday's special meeting that even the board was surprised by the date but she said they have to take the governor's proclamation "at face value."

She pointed out that center to the Election Commission's function is to conduct the election as mandated.

"I know there are concerns, but we just have to take the proclamation at its face value and just move on from there," Sablan said.

In her personal opinion, though, she believes that one motive behind the tight schedule is to preclude any other voters from being counted on the list.

When asked for comments, the Office of the Governor said: "No individuals have registered for the upcoming election [besides those already on the registration list] so neither side was affected, and it remains those who were allowed to vote on Nov. 9."

Election Commission executive director Robert Guerrero disclosed that there are a total of 131 voters expected in the special election on March 27. The number was reduced—from last election's 149—after the court disqualified 18 individuals on the list.

CEC hands off

The group claimed that since the CNMI Supreme Court issued the order on Jan. 29 for a new Northern Islands election, Rebuenog has continued to sit as mayor—an information that the Election Commission said it will verify.

However, CEC legal counsel Maegan Hassel-Shearer emphasized that the agency has no authority to "order" or "advise" Rebuenog of the order as this is beyond its power.

CEC chair Sablan pointed out that the governor is the sole authority to issue any notification in case the affected individual ignores the court ruling.

However, the Governor's Office pointed out that since Fitial had already called for a special election, this means that Rebuenog is already out of the office.

"The CEC is not in charge of removing individuals from office, only of conducting elections. That said, Ramona is aware that the office of the Northern Island Mayor is vacant. The governor has called for a special election, which indicates there is a vacancy in that office," the Governor's Office statement said.

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CEC *waives fees for two candidates, names office as official polling place*

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission board has approved a waiver on the filing fee of two candidates for Northern Islands mayor: Ramona Rebuenog and Tobias Aldan.

It also formally designated the CEC customer service area as the official polling place for the special election on March 27, while canvassing and counting will be done at the CEC conference room.

Based on the Constitution, a candidate has to pay $250 in filing one's documents.

Although the special election is a new process, the board also voted to accept the petitions of the two former candidates, which they had prepared during the last general election.

The commission will certify the petitions on Feb. 20 and will declare the official candidates for the position.

The special election is open to any qualified candidates and will go through the same procedures as the general election.

Based on CEC records, there are a total of 131 registered voters for the Northern Islands. No requests for absentee ballots have been received yet.

CEC executive director Robert Guerrero said yesterday they have yet to know whether all 131 registered voters are on island to participate in the election.

Guerrero pointed out that if CEC determines that there is no one at the Northern Islands, the agency could minimize its expenses for the activity.

He said the agency spend $11,495.90 every time it hires a helicopter to go to the islands.

Although initial information states that no voters remain in the Northern Islands, Guerrero said they will verify it with the proper agencies.

The CEC needs an estimated $15,000 to $20,000 to conduct the special election.

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Govt's unpaid employer contributions jump to $280M

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

From the court judgment of over $231 million in outstanding employer's contribution last year, the total unpaid obligation of the central government now stands at over $280 million, NMI Retirement Fund Administrator Mark A. Aguon disclosed yesterday.

Aguon, guest speaker in yesterday's Saipan Rotary Club meeting, said this amount was as of November 2009 and may continue to increase if the Fund collects no significant payments.

Aguon said the agency is still working with the Fitial administration's negotiating team to come up with better payment plans for the long-overdue obligation.

The Superior Court had ruled in June 2009 that the CNMI government owes the Fund $231 million in employer's contribution and that both parties must negotiate on the payment scheme to address the obligation.

During the Fund's last board meeting, the agency's legal counsel, Viola Alepuyo, reported that as initial "action" to the court judgment, the central government has begun paying a higher employer contribution rate from the previous 16 percent to 20 percent beginning November.

The Fitial administration has also offered to continue paying the taxes due the Fund—as mandated by the court judgment—amounting to about $100,000 monthly.

The government is scheduled on May 3 to present evidence in court whether it can afford to pay more than the 20 percent employer contribution rate it is currently paying.

The Fund wants the government's contribution rate increased to 37 percent, as recommended by its actuary.

Alepuyo emphasized the need to collect a substantial amount from the administration's debt to minimize the Fund's drawdowns on its investment funds.

The board estimates its total investments at $330 million at present. It says the amount would have been higher if not for the regular withdrawals being made to pay for pension benefits.

Last fiscal year, the Fund withdrew a total of $43 million from its investments, a big bulk of which went to the pension of retirees.

This fiscal year, the board approved a maximum of $55 million in drawdowns in anticipation of more government employees retiring.

The Fund board of trustees earlier supported the proposal to float a $20 million bond to pay for the government's debt to the Fund. However, the last Legislature did not act on this.

Ex-PSS staff's plea for reduced sentence denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona has denied a motion to reduce the 10-year sentence of a former Public School System employee who seriously injured his wife during a beating, saying he took too long to ask for the reduction.

Manglona ruled that Vicente Limes Laniyo's failure to ask for a reduction or reconsideration of the sentence within the prescribed period bars the court from exercising any further authority over its sentence.

"Based on a review of the foregoing authority, this court concludes that Rule 35(a)'s provision that allows a motion to reduce a sentence to be made within 120 days after the sentence is imposed must be made within 120 days after the oral pronouncement. In this case, defendant's motion is untimely," said the judge in her written decision issued Thursday.

Manglona sentenced Laniyo on Jan. 14, 2009, to 10 years in prison without parole for aggravated assault and battery. She ordered the then 42-year-old Laniyo to pay a $1,000 fine and submit to counseling at the Community Guidance Center. Manglona issued a written sentence and commitment order on Jan. 20, 2009.

On May 18, 2009, 124 days after the Jan. 14 sentencing hearing, Laniyo, through assistant public defender Richard Miller, filed a motion for reconsideration, asking the court to allow him the possibility of parole.

The hearing was finally heard on Feb. 3, 2010, due to several issues. Assistant attorney general William Downer represented the government.

The issue presented at the hearing was whether the 120-day period from which a motion to reduce sentence may be made begins from the time of oral pronouncement or when a written judgment is issued by the court.

In denying the motion, Manglona said Rule 35(b) of Commonwealth Rules of Criminal Procedure states that "[a] motion to reduce a sentence may be made…within 120 days after the sentence is imposed…"

Manglona said Section 4114 of Title 6 of the Commonwealth Code also provides that "the court may reduce a sentence within 120 days after the sentence is imposed…."

Laniyo and the prosecution both recognize that the majority of federal cases interpreting Rule 35(b) has held that the imposition of a sentence becomes effective at the time of oral pronouncement, not at the entry of judgment.

Nevertheless, because there is no Commonwealth case law adopting this holding, Laniyo suggests that the court adopt the minority view that the imposition of a sentence becomes effective at the entry of judgment.

Manglona declined to follow the minority view.

"As the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit long held, 'The only sentence that is legally cognizable is the actual oral pronouncement in the presence of the defendant,'" Manglona said.

In 2007, the Office of the Attorney General charged Laniyo with three counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, one count of assault and battery, and one count of kidnapping.

Laniyo entered a plea agreement with the government. He pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and battery. The remaining charges were dismissed.

The case stemmed from an Aug. 26, 2007, incident when Laniyo beat up his wife, using a machete, a rifle, and a pocket knife.

The victim sustained severe lacerations on her back, head, hand, and thighs.

"What you did to your wife is not acceptable!" Manglona told the defendant during the sentencing.

Manglona said the wife's injuries were so serious and numerous that it's "only a miracle she is still alive."

Laniyo was last assigned to the PSS food and nutrition service program.

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8-hour gov't work cut, unpaid legal holidays proposed anew

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan) has introduced an austerity measure bill reducing government work hours by eight hours or from 80 to 72 per pay period, and implementing at least six unpaid holidays for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2010.

Basa's House Bill 17-22 is aimed at immediately addressing the government's current financial crisis.

While the bill does not say the exact amount of money to be saved from these austerity measures, it cited Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's report to the Legislature stating that almost $18.87 million in projected deficit for FY 2009 could have been avoided had lawmakers previously acted on his proposed "austerity Fridays."

The House Ways and Means Committee will hold a meeting on Friday to tackle all the revenue generating bills so far introduced.

Under Basa's bill, the work schedule of all full-time government employees will be 72 hours per pay period. If a legal holiday is within the same period, it will be reduced to 64 hours for that particular period.

All new contracts for government employees entered into after the enactment of the measure should also receive work hour cuts.

Besides the "austerity Fridays" declared as government austerity holidays, Basa's bill also declared as "unpaid legal holidays" the following: President's Day which this year falls on Feb. 15, Good Friday, Commonwealth Covenant Day on March 24, Memorial Day on May 31, Independence/Liberation Day on July 4, and Labor Day on Sept. 6.

Exempted from the austerity measures are agencies providing 24-hour service including the Commonwealth Health Center.

The bill directs the education commissioner to appropriate changes in the length of the school year to maintain compliance with federal education and funding mandates.

While the bill exempts from the austerity measures constitutionally protected salaries such as those of the governor, lieutenant governor, justices and judges and lawmakers, it encourages them to waive 10 percent of their salaries or eight hours per pay period.

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) made a self-imposed deadline for the House to pass a FY 2010 budget bill within 30 days from Jan. 11 when the 17th Legislature took office.

The Fitial administration said the FY 2010 budget is now in the Legislature's hand, while the administration is working on the FY 2011 budget measure of $150 million again.

The Executive Branch has until April 1 to submit a budget proposal to the Legislature for FY 2011, which runs from Oct. 1, 2010 to Sept. 31, 2011.

SOCIO

From Page 1

that it is "learning from Guam's experience."

'High speed vessels'

Fitial, at the same time, responded to a letter from Guam Sen. Judith Guthertz, who asked whether the CNMI government is interested in having Army joint high speed vessels stationed on Saipan.

"The CNMI will continue to work with and support the territory of Guam in regards to all of the upcoming military realignment in the Pacific region. I will gladly consider having the CNMI as the homeport for stationing and operations of the [joint high speed vessels]," Fitial told Guthertz.

The U.S. Army Environmental Command has opened the public comment period for the preparation of a programmatic environmental impact statement in 2010 for the proposed stationing and operation of up to 12 joint high-speed vessels.

These are strategic transport vessels designed to support the rapid transport of military troops and equipment in the U.S. and abroad.

A copy of the Army's notice of intent is available at www.aec.army.mil.

'Lack of funding sources'

Camacho, who was on Saipan for hours yesterday, said although billions of dollars in construction projects in Guam are promised, "there's no guarantee they will be there tomorrow."

"There's no funding source to mitigate the impact to our territory," he said, adding that past experiences resulted in huge debts incurred by Guam that it has come to a point where the island no longer has capability to borrow money.

Camacho said Guam needs a minimum of $3 billion to mitigate the social impacts of the buildup, but he said no money has been set aside to address these impacts.

He said the buildup cost "should not be something borne by the people," and that both Japan and the United States should consider the impacts to the host island, including in the area of public health, public safety, schools and housing.

Camacho said another major concern is the environmental impact, including massive dredging of corals at the Apra Harbor.

Guam hired consultants Matrix Design Group to help sift through some 11,000 pages of the draft military buildup EIS for easy understanding.

"No decisions have been made," Camacho said, adding that comments on the draft EIS will help shape the final EIS to be released later this year.

Tom Linden, the coordinator for the CNMI Military Integration Management Committee, said all comments from mayors have been received and will be finalized this week for submission to the governor. The MIMC seeks to have a unified voice on the planned buildup.

He said there's been no mitigation measure offered so far to address the expected decrease in tourist arrivals to Tinian as a result of limited access to the northern end of the island because of military training.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz said Tinian has been "waiting" for the military buildup on Tinian for "30 years," and hopes the U.S. military will have a permanent base on the island. He hopes an expected decrease in civilian tourist arrivals to the island will be mitigated by an increase in military personnel and their families' visit to Tinian for rest and recreation.

Dela Cruz also said the military should ensure an effective quarantine system to prevent brown tree snakes, rhinoceros beetles and other invasive species from entering Tinian.

Dela Cruz also informed Fitial and Camacho yesterday that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency told him that the federal agency will issue the Tinian municipality a citation this month because of a non-compliant landfill. He did not elaborate when asked for more information about EPA's citation.

Camacho had formally asked U.S. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus to delay the implementation of the military buildup in Guam beyond 2014 "to protect the integrity of the III Marine Expeditionary Force and ensure that impacts are minimized to our island infrastructure and socio-economic services."

As of yesterday, Guam has yet to receive a response to this request from the U.S. Navy.

But Camacho, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, said he will bring up the issue in the upcoming National Governors Association meeting in Washington, D.C.

'Move them to Tinian'

Guthertz also urged federal officials to stretch the timeline for the military buildup to alleviate the adverse impacts expected with the population boom.

Guthertz, who chairs the Committee on the Guam Military Buildup and Homeland Security, recommended that the planned relocation of the 8,000 Marines to Guam be reduced by about 4,000.

She said the First Marine Aircraft Wing aviation command can be shifted to Tinian and the uninhabited island of Agrigan in the CNMI.

This, she said, would allow for the relocation of about half of the 8,652 infantry Marines intended to be transferred to Guam to be sent to the vacated Futenma facilities instead.

Because Guam cannot accommodate all training for the relocating Marines, the military also looks at Tinian to provide opportunities for training groups of 200 Marines or larger due to greater land availability.

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ple an alternative, another option," Goldhorn said during a brief ceremony.

Goldhorn said the National Guard's dual role of serving the state which in this case is Guam for disaster relief, for example, and serving its federal mission including deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan "separates us from other services."

Guam Guard embarked on the initiative to augment its force with CNMI recruits, and enable it to meet its target for recruiting.

Camacho described the signing of the agreement as a "momentous" and "historic day."

"This offers opportunity for men and women of the Northern Marianas to serve in the National Guard, to serve the nation. Here's a clear example of how we (Guam and CNMI) can come together," he said.

Staff Sgt. Gonzalo L. Fernandez, recruiting and retention non-commissioned officer with the Guam Army National Guard, told Saipan Tribune that at least 103 men and women in the CNMI have so far been recruited for membership with the Guam Guard.

Fernandez, who won the Army National Guard Recruiter/Retention Noncommissioned Officer of the Year award, said anyone interested in joining the Guam Guard may call him at 989 1237 or send him an e-mail at gonzalo.fernandez@us.army.mil.

Fitial said there's some 100 slots in the Guam Guard reserved for those from the CNMI.

Camacho expressed hopes that the MOU will someday lead to the CNMI having its own National Guard bureau or unit, just like Guam.

There is currently no Guard unit in the CNMI.

"This is a good move. It's something I hope will provide framework for the CNMI to have its own National Guard Bureau in due time," he said.

When asked about the timing of the recruitment in the CNMI, Camacho said whenever opportunities come up for Guam and the CNMI to work together, he would always seize that opportunity.

This is Camacho's last year in office but he said he will continue to work with the CNMI on issues beneficial to both the Commonwealth and Guam.

The Guam Guard said among the benefits for recruits is the "tuition assistance" for that can be used for a college education, and the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program.

This program allows Guam Guard soldiers to earn money by providing additional leads or prospects to a recruiter. They can earn up to $3,000 per recruit that they are responsible for bringing into the Guard.

Guam has the highest membership per capita of all Guard organizations in the United States: over 1,300 Guam Air and Army National Guard members for some 160,000 residents. This means 0.81 percent of Guam's population are active Guard members.

5-HOUR

From Page 1

a weak spot, ultimately tripping all three feeders from the Kiya substation.

Saipan Tribune learned that feeders Kiya 1, 2, and 4 serve the sourthern part of Saipan.

In Dandan, residents experienced a power interruption around 9pm. Power was restored at midnight.

However, Malae said the not all parts of southern Saipan experienced lengthy outages.

"The power disruptions varied from one hour to five on each of the three Kiya feeders," Malae told Saipan Tribune.

Malae said power was restored last night to all areas because they were able to energize Transformer Two. Transformer One fault was repaired today.

CUC engineers and technicians were checking for consequential damages and making necessary tests and repairs yesterday.

"As serious as the damage was, it could have been much worse. The transformer could have suffered an internal short, which was what we were afraid of last night in the dark," Malae said, adding that Transformers One and Two back each other up in case of a situation such as what occurred.

Unfortunately, he said Transformer Two had not been energized and was on "standby."

"Even though it was tempting to re-energize it shortly after the other failed, we agreed to delay this process until the transformer was thoroughly inspected. Each transformer costs at least $1 million and is not a shelf item," he said.

Malae said in order to shorten the outage duration as much as possible, the Kiya feeders were connected to Feeder 3 or Feeder 4.

Saipan Tribune learned that once Transformer Two passed inspection and was energized, the Kiya feeders and Feeders 3 and 4 were returned to their normal configuration. The two short power interruptions late in the evening for some feeders was a result of this transfer, according to Malae.

"The power distribution system [including the Kiya substation] is the vulnerable part of the power delivery system and will continue to be so for another two years at the present rate at which resources can be mustered. Power generation is more stable and has more resources than power distribution," he said.

In January, CUC said there were at least 10 hours of outages on account of the distribution system and zero hours due to power generation.

In order to avert the same situation, CUC said it needs to pull a team of industrial electricians from the power plant, combine with power distribution crews, plus one engineer to inspect substations on a regular basis.

CUC, Malae said, is looking for a distribution engineer, preferably U.S. trained, to eventually lead the operations of transmission and distribution.

At present, he said both the transmission and distribution divisions, including water and wastewater, do not have operations engineers.

FITIAL

From Page 2

Harassment, intimidation

The group also raised concerns about alleged harassment and intimidation of some government employees who are allegedly being asked to support Rebuenog.

The group's spokesperson said that in a recent gathering at the governor's house some government employees were threatened that they will be fired if they do not support Rebuenog—an allegation that was denied by the Governor's Office.

"As far as the allegations go, the governor is keenly aware of the statutory prohibition against harassment of an individual to vote one way or another and he would not violate such laws. If those allegations were true… those employees would have exercised their right to file a formal complaint to the proper authorities," the statement said.

During the Election Commission special meeting, the board advised the group that if the information is true, the Office of the Public Auditor is the agency authorized toaddress the issue.

CEC's Sablan said the agency wants to remain focused on carrying out the election properly and smoothly as scheduled.

"We will make sure that all deadlines are followed…we're here to safeguard a fair and smooth election," she added.

3 in human smuggling case change plea to guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The three defendants who earlier questioned the charges filed against them in connection with a human smuggling scheme signed a plea agreement yesterday with the U.S. government.

As this developed, the five Chinese nationals who were arrested by federal agents on Jan. 31 on Rota appeared yesterday afternoon in federal court for arraignment. The five allegedly attempted to sneak into Guam by boarding two rubber boats at the West Harbor docks on Rota.

In the first case, Dong Wang, Dongxiang Wang, and Qingxu Wang will each enter a guilty plea to one count of attempted improper entry by an alien.

The defendants, represented by counsels Vicente Salas, Mark A. Scoggins, and F. Matthew Smith, were set to enter the guilty plea yesterday afternoon before U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David Wiseman.

The change of plea hearing was held yesterday.

Pursuant to the agreement, the U.S. government will recommend a one-year probation sentence for each defendant.

The three were part of the 24 Chinese nationals who were caught boarding a boat at Smiling Cove Marina on Saipan on Jan. 5, 2010, to carry out a plan to unlawfully enter Guam. They were arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.

The defendants earlier asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to drop the charges against them because they violated no law and the court has no jurisdiction.

Thirteen of the 24 defendants had already pleaded guilty to attempted improper entry by an alien and were each sentenced to one year probation.

In the Rota case, the federal court conducted the arraignment for Shixu Huang, Lihua Yi, Jingfan Zhang, Pingping Zhang, and Zhanshan Zhang yesterday afternoon.

As of press time, the hearing was still ongoing before Wiseman.

The defendants pleaded not guilty during the arraignment.

Man gets 45 days in prison for stealing cases of Spam

The Superior Court imposed yesterday a 45-day prison term on a second store employee accused of stealing 50 cases of SPAM by making a hole on the wall that separates the store's warehouse and their barracks in Tanapag.

Associate Judge Perry Inos sentenced Xuan Zhe Jin to one year in prison, all suspended except for 45 days, for criminal mischief. Inos gave the 28-year-old Jin credit for the 45 days he had already served in jail.

Jin was placed on supervised probation and required to pay with co-defendant Abe Sahagun Ladringan $1,250 restitution to I-Mart.

Inos said the payment for restitution will be offset from money owed to Jin by KS Chang Corp. which owns I-Mart.

Inos also ordered Jin to pay a $25 court assessment fee plus a probation fee.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Jin and Ladringan, 25, with conspiracy to commit theft, theft, and criminal mischief. The two agreed to a plea agreement with the government.

Last week, Inos imposed a 23-day prison term on Ladringan and gave him credit for the 23 days he had already served in jail.

The two were accused of making a hole on the wall of I-Mart's warehouse in December 2007, through which they slipped out 50 cans of Spam that they sold to another storeowner, splitting the proceeds between themselves. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Mañagaha Light condemned, has potential to fall

The Mañagaha Light on the Island of Mañagaha has been condemned due to the deterioration of the steel and has the potential to fall, according to a U.S. Coast Guard statement issued yesterday.

CONTACT INFO
564-USCG

The U.S. Coast Guard said it is working diligently to have the light repaired. "We advise everyone on the island to stay clear of the light," the statement said.

The Coast Guard is reminding the public to report any safety aids to navigation concerns as soon as possible. For maritime emergencies, call the Coast Guard 24 hours a day, islandwide 564-USCG. ***(USCG)***

Tourist told to say sorry for shoplifting

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos has ordered a female tourist to write a letter of apology to Duty Free Shoppers for shoplifting a pair of Gucci sunglasses.

Inos sentenced Chisato Kobayashi to six months in prison, all suspended, and placed the 26-year-old tourist on one year probation.

She was also ordered to pay a $400 fine, a $25 court assessment fee plus probation fee.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Kobayashi with theft for shoplifting a pair of Gucci sunglasses at DFS in Garapan on Jan. 19, 2010.

Kobayashi and counsel Victorino DLG. Torres signed a plea agreement with assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Sunday February 14
A four course dinner show in Charley's featuring Certified Angus Beef Fillet Mignon, unlimited Red and White Wine plus a chance to win a room at PIC!
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Call 234-7976 extension 5170 or 5172.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Saipan American Education Foundation School students who won in the PGFC held Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010, at San Vicente Elementary School. Standing from left, JD Pascua, Kiana Villegas, Mariel Reyes, Myka Villegas, Kristine Fajardo and Kyle Villegas. Seated from left, Kelvin Camacho, Stephen Seth Alonzo, Dondi Ferrer, Joneil Matthew Santos, Curtis Mostales, Vossinni Cucal and Janos Reyes.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CHAMPION AGAIN

Congratulations to Mikhail T. Alcantara for winning the recently concluded William S. Reyes Elementary School Spelling Bee finals. He will again represent the school in the upcoming Scripps Spelling Bee regional finals in Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mikhail T. Alcantara, seated right with white shirt, celebrates with his friends his victory in the recently concluded William S. Reyes Elementary School Spelling Bee finals. Alcantara held his victory party at his parents' residence in Chalan Kanoa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CERTIFIED NEPHROLOGY TECHNICIAN

Samantha Taro Nepaial, a nephrology technician from St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc. recently passed with flying colors the Certified Clinic Hemodialysis Technician exam. This certification is a new requirement by the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission and is co-sponsored by St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc. and the Northern Marianas College for all technicians in order for them to continue working as nephrology technicians. The course and exam was administered by the Northern Marianas College. Nepaial garnered the highest score among her peers. Ms. Alfeche, another technician who also hails from St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc., also passed the exam. Both nephrology technicians were sponsored by the St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Guadalupe Santos, who is celebrating her special day today, Feb. 10. We hope that your birthday will be filled with happiness, joy and blessings. We love you so much and many more to come. From Mom, Dad, siblings, grandparents, uncle Jerry, nina and nino.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated birthday greeting to Ivan Angelo, who celebrated his 7th birthday last Feb.8. Greetings coming from Dad and Mom, family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 5th birthday Tamisha Lia! May the Lord bless you today and throughout the year! With lots of love and kisses, Mom, Dad, Wally Boy and the entire Sablan and Chong family.

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Commerce mulls CPI for Tinian and Rota

The Department of Commerce will be commencing the Consumer Price Index study for the islands of Tinian and Rota. Currently the CPI is done on the island of Saipan and is representative of all three islands. The CPI is the index that is used to measure inflationary conditions on various market baskets within the economy. The CPI measures commodities such as utilities, food, education, housing, and other elements of the CNMI economy. This study is used as a primary data source in negotiating the Nutrition Assistance Program with the USDA.

"The problem that we faced is that the commodities which are sampled for the data are many times not available in the islands of Tinian and Rota. The lack of availability of the products which are required in the sampling resulted in the island of Saipan representing the inflationary conditions in the other islands. We knew that this wasn't a correct reflection of the conditions in the islands of Tinian and Rota. The inflationary costs for the commodities in Tinian and Rota are significantly higher than they are in Saipan due to conditions associated with market size, shipping, and other economic conditions which are impact inflation", said Commerce Secretary Michael Ada.

According to Commerce, it became an issue of the costs of developing a separate CPI for the islands of Tinian and Rota. As there was no local funding availability to develop the study, Commerce had to request reprogramming from the Economic Development Administration, under a grant awarded for the development of the CNMI's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, to fund the development of the two additional CPIs.

The CPI for both islands will commence on Feb. 22, 2010. The CPI was placed out in an RFP and subsequently awarded to the sole bidder. The contractor will be working with the Tinian and Rota Commerce Divisions to complete the study.

"It is anticipated that once the studies are complete, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs will be able to leverage those findings to negotiate more balanced rates for the islands of Tinian and Rota. Essentially what is happening now is that a recipient in Saipan who receives $300 in NAP can buy $300 in food on Saipan. However, a recipient of $300 in Rota may only be able to buy $150 worth of commodities due to inflationary costs. The availability of this data will assist in DCCA level out the disparities that exist between the islands," says Ada. ***(PR)***

OAG warns: Beware of e-mail tax scams

The Office of the Attorney General has become aware of a recurring attempt to steal from Commonwealth residents. This occurs every year at tax time.

Thieves send out an e-mail that purports to be from the Internal Revenue Service, IRS. The e-mail contains a "hotlink" which, when clicked, sends the resident to a fake Web page that looks almost exactly like the official IRS Web page. On this Web page, they ask for personal information like Social Security numbers, mother's maiden name, and credit card and bank information.

"Do not click on the link, and do not enter your personal information. This is an attempt to steal your identity and money," the OAG said.

The following information is found on the official IRS Web site:

"The IRS does not ask for personal identifying or financial information via unsolicited e-mail. Additionally, taxpayers do not have to complete a special form to obtain a refund.

"The IRS has seen numerous attempts over the years to defraud the public and the federal government through a variety of schemes, including…identity theft. …More information on these schemes may be found on the criminal enforcement page at IRS.gov."

This current scheme is particularly effective because it plays on people's willingness to comply with what appears to be an official government request. It is not a legitimate request. Commonwealth residents should remember that the CNMI enjoys a unique tax situation and, therefore, the entity most likely to be contacting them about their taxes is our own Division of Revenue and Taxation.

As always, the Office of the Attorney General warns residents to beware of unsolicited emails. ***(PR)***

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A LOOK AT PAST CAMPOREES

Boy scouts explore Anatahan Island

By OSCAR C. CAMACHO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The author is the Troop Committee chairman for the NMI Boy Scouts. As part of celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, the Saipan Tribune *is publishing a series of articles featuring past camporees and activities of the local boy scouts program. The following is an excerpt of a longer article.*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
File photo shows boy scouts rappeling down a steep slope of Anatahan Island during a camporee.

There is no need for watches or instrument for telling direction. The sun is directly behind me and I am facing east. To my right is the vast ocean and to my left is the sharp rugged terrain of Anatahan. The Chuukese say they named all these islands. Gum for a part of the sailing canoe, Tsinian for the direction were the sun comes up, Seipol for an empty bowl and Anatahan for something I don't know. Justice V. says there's a book on Anatahan written by Japanese soldiers.

A cow just mooed and the flies swarm and buzz all over even when there is no need to. Mr. Reyes said the goats would welcome us to the island; he was wrong. It was the flies that cheered and danced with joy at the new smells arriving via the CNMI *Challenger*, formerly *Daiwa Challenger* and allegedly affiliated with a different kind of flies, the Yakuzas.

The Secretary of Lands and Natural Resources greeted us early this morning at Smiling Cove and posed several pointed questions. He said he was disappointed to learn that only seven boys scouts were going with 18 adults. He also asked how many of the boys are of CNMI descent. It was quite unfortunate that there were more of our Micronesian friends than our own. Nonetheless, he was happy to provide this opportunity to the boys and leaders. Parents bid us farewell and the secretary gave the boys a lecture on rules concerning accommodations on the *Challenger*. Captain Taitano reiterated the secretary instructions and the boys listened intently. I too listened with interest. A man wanted to come aboard the *Challenger* but the secretary, in a commanding tone of voice, told the man not to board because he was drunk.

There were gestures made to certain crewmen and to the mayor of the Northern Islands—gestures only they know regarding fishing, hunting and eating restriction. Another agency, which made this trip possible, is the Emergency Management Office. Mr. Robert Guerrero made certain fuel was delivered, and as usual talks occurred between the secretary, mayor, the executive director and the judge. The boys minded only their business and I simply observed. I saw the mayor's truck pull up close to the yatch and someone instructed Ansen and Jonathan to unload. Ansen and Jonathan each carried a case of Lite beer and I remarked, "I should take a picture of this." Mr. Cal Reyes was all hyped up while the judge was relaxed and the rest of the crew simply worked and did their part of loading up the *Challenger*.

Sepio, Ansen, Tony and Jonathan climbed down and up a ravine below and toward the ocean. Earlier, Justice V. loaded his rifle and went into the trees with Mr. Gus Flores. Yes, the same Gus who threw up on the way to Tinian for the Summer Camporee. This time refused to barf, and he prevailed all the way to Anatahan.

Justice V. shot a goat with one shot. Mr. Pete Guerrero and Al Saures skinned and cut it up. We set camp and did the cleanup. Wildlife Preserve and Forestry Officers Stanley V. and Ben Camacho escorted us and showed us the site for camping. They called it the "Golf Course" and it does look like a golf course except that it is very rugged below and very flat where we are now. I can see the two discuss their work. They had problems setting up the tents earlier.

Calistro and Jun and Paul Santos of Rota came and inquired as to what am I doing. Am I drawing? "No, I'm writing." They left. The sun is now just above the hills and ready to call it quits. Headcount eighteen, Hoppy and another are not here. Cal is discussing tomorrow's schedule: volunteers to skin goat; gifts to villagers: candies, guasaun, perfume. After lunch, an educational session on the forestry badge. *Challenger* should arrive and take us to the village—the eight kids in the village will be excited to meet other boys. The boys were told to show their Boy Scout spirit and were instructed to ask questions about life on Anatahan.

REQUEST for PROPOSALS
MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
RFP #10-02

INVESTMENT in a LOCAL HIGH YIELD PORTFOLIO

This is a request for any and all investment proposals from interested parties or firms seeking capital sources or funding for projects or ventures within the CNMI.

MPLT Trustees has recently updated its Asset Allocation and determined that a percentage (5%) of its total investment portfolio ($3.137 million) shall be devoted to a local investment program. This local investment program will be designated as high yield investments since the associated risks are much higher than those of publicly traded investment grade securities. The reasons for this are as follows:

- Challenges to obtaining sufficient capital for projects or ventures.
- Associated promissory notes cannot be traded or sold thus have no liquidity.
- Associated promissory notes are not rated and considered less than investment grade.
- Often the local private or public sector proposer's ability to repay the loan is challenged.
- Credit rating for such borrowers is often low.
- Ability to raise capital or obtain credit is limited.
- Maximum exposure for each investment cannot be controlled.
- Sufficient collateral beyond those acquired with loan proceed is limited.

As a high yield investment, MPLT may limit the duration to a preferred five years term but longer term may be considered. This is not a low-income or low interest rate program. Interest rates will be determined based upon risk and duration. Due to the higher risks associated with this type of investment, a risk premium will be added to the base interest rate.

Proposal information and guidelines under this program can be obtained at the MPLT office as shown below. Further, as part of the fee, MPLT shall include fees for servicing costs, legal review fees, consult review fees. Therefore, each applicant shall be charged a non-refundable application fee of $500 by Cashier's Check or Money Order, due upon submission of the application. Each proposer shall agree to and shall pay an origination fee of 1% on the approved investment amount, for the closing/administrative costs for any approved proposal.

Ten (10) copies plus one original of the sealed proposals must be submitted to the MPLT Office, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 2:00 PM, on March 3, 2010. Proposals must be sealed and marked "Local High Yield Investment Program, RFP 10-02". Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The MPLT reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in its best interests. All proposals shall become the exclusive property of the MPLT.

/s/ Phillip Mendiola-Long, AIF
Chairman

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB10-R-OPM-045

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, ROTA BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).

/s/ MATHILDA A. ROSARIO
ACTING DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB10-DFW-052

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ELEVEN (11) FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (FADs) FOR THE DIVISION OF FIST & WILDLIFE-FISHERIES RESEARCE PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-BID MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 12, 2010 AT 2:00 P.M. AT THE DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE'S CONFERENCE ROOM LOCATED IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN. ALL QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS ITB SHALL BE ADDRESSED TO MR. MICHAEL TENORIO AT 670) 664-6044 OR (670) 285-0427 NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 16, 2010. CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ DR. IGNACIO T. DELA CRUZ
SECRETARY, DLNR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 10, 1999

Sweatshops flourish across the US

The federal government must refrain from any further use of its bully pulpit tactics in leveling baseless accusations against territories and countries abroad about slavery and sweatshop conditions. It must first ensure that its own backyard isn't in fact a scrapyard of the very conditions it accuses of others. In fact, sweatshops have started returning and sprouting across US mainland, the larger plot of American soil. A recent article by Kirstin Downey Grimsley about sweatshops says that in the past few years, federal investigators and workplace activists have uncovered dozens of sweatshops in the United States, "particularly in New York and Los Angeles, where immigrant employees, many of whom are poor and speak little English, work long hours for low pay. It is estimated that more than half of the nation's 22,000 sewing businesses are now sweatshops.

DPH revises test for food handlers

The Department of Public Health is planning to amend the new regulation on food handlers so that it does not become too costly for businesses that are already reeling from the effects of Asia's financial crisis. Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez said he will meet with the members of the Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands to consult them on the planned amendments. Although the new regulation took effect on January 28, Villagomez said he is looking at the possibility of deferring its full implementation. Ron Sablan, president of HANMI, said the association would like to discuss with public health officials their proposals to the new regulation. "We are happy that they are taking our concerns into consideration," he said.

Feb. 10, 2000

17 seek asylum

Seventeen foreigners residing in the CNMI formally sought asylum yesterday through papers submitted to four offices of U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service in the Asia-Pacific region. Their lawyer Bruce L. Jorgensen filed the application forms with the INS office on Saipan, Honolulu, Manila and Bangkok via certified mail. He also delivered by hand original copies of the forms to Oscar Martinez, INS representative on the island, in his office at Horiguchi Building. Those seeking asylum included five Sri Lankan nationals and 12 from the People's Republic of China, according to a letter Mr. Jorgensen wrote to the four INS offices.

Fight takeover—legislators

Stunned by the U.S. Senate's approval of the federal immigration takeover bill, two members of the Legislature yesterday called for active lobbying campaign in Washington to block its passage in the House of Representatives. To draw support from the lower house, a delegation from the CNMI should also travel to the U.S. capital to personally appeal against the legislation that will extend federal immigration laws to the island. S. 1052 was passed by the nation's senators on Monday, becoming the first measure to reach both chambers of the bicameral body in Washington D.C. amending CNMI's self-governing status as provided under the Covenant.

Feb. 10, 2003

$3M more for airport improvement

The Federal Aviation Administration has channeled in $3 million in federal grants to the Saipan International Airport so it could expand its terminal area, in response to security requirements for all air facilities across the United States. According to executive director Carlos H. Salas, Commonwealth Ports Authority, the FAA released the additional money for the immediate construction of the departure terminal, which is being handled by Boeing, the main contractor. Salas added that the grant would be used for the departure terminal's expansion project that would include enclosure and air conditioned rooms to allow the efficient operation of screeners at the airport.

Supreme Court fines AGO $250

The Supreme Court has fined the Attorney General's Office $250 for filing an appeal that magistrates described as "frivolous." The High Court also directed the AGO to pay plaintiffs Guo Qiong He and Yi Gong Chen the amount of their expenses in opposing the appeal, including incurred attorney's fees. Associate Justice Alexandro Castro, together with Justice Pro Tempore Virginia Sablan Onerheim and Kathleen M. Salii, signed the order. The Supreme Court's ruling was in connection with two cases separately filed by He and Chen at the Superior Court, accusing the government of violating their federal civil rights. The two were nabbed by immigration officers without a warrant of arrest at a Saipan garment factory in 1997. They were eventually ordered deported.

Hawaii flooded with fake FBI e-mails seeking victims

Charlene Thornton, special agent-in-charge of the Honolulu office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, warned the public yesterday about fraudulent e-mails coming into Hawaii that purport to be originating from the FBI. These e-mails often seek personal information or payments from unsuspecting recipients.

The fraudulent e-mails give the appearance of legitimacy due to the usage of pictures of the FBI director, seal, letterhead, and/or banners. The types of schemes utilizing the FBI name are typically notifications of cash prizes or inheritance proceeds that do not exist. Other e-mails arriving in Hawaii purport to be the FBI levying fines via email – a practice that does not exist in reality.

"The FBI does not send out e-mails soliciting personal information from citizens," said Thornton. "Please be cautious of any unsolicited e-mail referencing the FBI's endorsement of any Internet activity."

The social engineering technique of utilizing the FBI's name is to intimidate and convince the recipient the e-mail is legitimate. These e-mails often turn into "advance fee schemes" in which the recipients are asked to send money to the defrauders to obtain larger sums of money released in the future.

If a member of the public receives an e-mail purporting to be from the FBI, they should contact their local field office via phone to verify its authenticity. Reports of Internet fraud should be directed to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov. ***(FBI)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy birthday to our princess, Shalei Terrie Kisa, who celebrated her first birthday on Feb. 6. Wishing you good health, happiness and many more birthdays to come. Lots of love from Mommy Vanessa, Daddy Shawn and all your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

CNMI Public School System
Special Education & Early Intervention Program

Pursuant to Part B & C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Public School System Special Education & Early Intervention Program is required to provide a 60 day circulation notice of its Part B & C Grant Application and a 30 day comment period from the general public, including individuals with disabilities and parents of special education children & infants and toddlers with disabilities.

SPECIAL EDUCATION & EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

- Part B & C (Special Education & Early Intervention Program) Public Circulation Period: February 15 thru April 15, 2010
- Public Comment Period: March 01, 2010 thru March 30, 2010

Public Hearings:

Saipan:	March 16, 2010	6:30 to 8:00pm (Location to be Announced)
Tinian:	March 17, 2010	6:30 to 8:00pm (Location to be Announced)
Rota:	March 18, 2010	6:30 to 8:00pm (Location to be Announced)

Copies of the Grant Application, Policy and Procedural Manual and Parent's Rights Booklet are available from Monday - Friday, 8am - 4pm at the Office of Special Education Program located on the 2nd floor of the Retirement Bldg., Capitol Hill or the Children's Developmental Assistance Center in Garapan. Comments may be submitted by fax to (670) 664-3774, or hand delivered to the Office of Special Education Program located on the 2nd floor of the Retirement Bldg., Capitol Hill, or the Children's Developmental Assistance Center in Garapan or phone in your comments to:

Office of Special Education Program - 237-3029
Children's Developmental Assistance (C*DAC) - 664-4830

You can also access the documents on the PSS Web-Site at:
Part B: http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/PSSCentralOffice/index.cfm?pageID=75
Part C: http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/PSSCentralOffice/index.cfm?pageID=91

For more information, please contact Ms. Suzanne W. Lizama-Program Coordinator at (670) 237-3029.

NOBENAN SANTA LOURDES GIYA AS TEO

The people of As Teo are happy to announce the annual novena in honor of OUR LADY OF LOURDES. The novena will start on Friday, February 05, 2010 and end on Saturday, February 13, 2010 at the Santa Lourdes Shrine. For the first eight days, the novena will be said at 5:00pm. On the ninth day, (Saturday, the day of the fiesta) the novena will be said at 3:00pm, followed by Mass and procession. Dinner will be served at the residence of the late †Tan Maria and †Benbal Borja, and at the residence of the late †Rosa and Eugenio A.Borja. Everyone is invited.

Thank you very much.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SERAPONG	004E	1/30 Sat	1/28 Thu	1/28 Thu	1/26 Tue	1/23 Sat	2/5 Fri	2/1 Mon	1/31 Sun	1/24 Sun	1/24 Sun	2/1 Mon	2/5 Fri	2/7 Sun	2/9 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	033E	2/6 Sat	2/4 Thu	2/4 Thu	2/2 Tue	1/30 Sat	2/12 Fri	2/8 Mon	2/7 Sun	1/31 Sun	1/31 Sun	2/8 Mon	2/12 Fri	2/14 Sun	2/16 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	026E	2/13 Sat	2/11 Thu	2/11 Thu	2/9 Tue	2/6 Sat	2/19 Fri	2/15 Mon	2/14 Sun	2/7 Sun	2/7 Sun	2/15 Mon	2/19 Fri	2/21 Sun	2/23 Tue
MELL SERAPONG	005E	2/20 Sat	2/18 Thu	2/18 Thu	2/16 Tue	2/13 Sat	2/26 Fri	2/22 Mon	2/21 Sun	2/14 Sun	2/14 Sun	2/22 Mon	2/26 Fri	2/28 Sun	3/2 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	034E	2/27 Sat	2/25 Thu	2/25 Thu	2/23 Tue	2/20 Sat	3/5 Fri	3/1 Mon	2/28 Sun	2/21 Sun	2/21 Sun	3/1 Mon	3/5 Fri	3/7 Sun	3/9 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	027E	3/6 Sat	3/4 Thu	3/4 Thu	3/2 Tue	2/27 Sat	3/12 Fri	3/8 Mon	3/7 Sun	2/28 Sun	2/28 Sun	3/8 Mon	3/12 Fri	3/14 Sun	3/16 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SERAPONG	004E	2/14 Sun	2/14 Sun	2/15 Mon	SKIP	2/17 Wed	2/20 Sat	2/21 Sun	SKIP	2/26 Fri	2/27 Sat	3/4 Thu	3/23 Tue	3/7 Sun	3/3 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	033E	2/20 Sat	2/21 Sun	2/21 Sun	2/23 Tue	2/24 Wed	2/26 Fri	2/28 Sun	SKIP	3/5 Fri	3/6 Sat	3/11 Thu	3/30 Tue	3/14 Sun	3/10 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	026E	2/27 Sat	2/28 Sun	2/28 Sun	SKIP	3/3 Wed	3/5 Fri	3/7 Sun	SKIP	3/12 Fri	3/13 Sat	3/18 Thu	4/6 Tue	3/21 Sun	3/17 Wed
MELL SERAPONG	005E	3/6 Sat	3/7 Sun	3/7 Sun	3/9 Tue	3/10 Wed	3/12 Fri	3/14 Sun	SKIP	3/19 Fri	3/20 Sat	3/25 Thu	4/13 Tue	3/28 Sun	3/24 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	034E	3/13 Sat	3/14 Sun	3/14 Sun	SKIP	3/17 Wed	3/19 Fri	3/21 Sun	SKIP	3/26 Fri	3/27 Sat	4/1 Thu	4/20 Tue	4/4 Sun	3/31 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	027E	3/20 Sat	3/21 Sun	3/21 Sun	3/23 Tue	3/24 Wed	3/26 Fri	3/28 Sun	SKIP	4/2 Fri	4/3 Sat	4/8 Thu	4/27 Tue	4/11 Sun	4/7 Wed

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 34

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Space invaders

For decades now, America has been lost in space. Ever since the Apollo mission landed men on the moon in the 1960s, the nation has asked: OK, what's next?

The answers have failed to stir the imagination: A space shuttle that is little more than a glorified barge into low Earth orbit. An international space station that's been a white elephant for years. Another moon mission? Been there, done that. Mars? Not in this lifetime.

Last week, President Barack Obama, who has been compared to Mr. Spock, the flawlessly logical Vulcan of "Star Trek" fame, charted a different course. He scrapped the planned 2020 moon shot and told NASA to turn over rocket building to private companies that are more innovative and nimble than the sclerotic space agency.

The mission: Develop rockets to deliver space travelers to Mars and other planets and asteroids in the solar system in weeks rather than years.

Sounds ... well, logical.

Last October, a special independent panel advising Obama on space issues said that NASA picked the wrong destination with the wrong rocket for the 2020 moon shot. That's after four years and about $9 billion spent on developing the Ares 1 rocket and an Orion capsule to carry astronauts.

In a fact sheet released with the 2011 White House budget proposal, the federal Office of Management and Budget said the rocket's development was "over budget, behind schedule, lacking in innovation due to a failure to invest in critical new technologies."

No wonder Obama wants to hand the rocket building off to private firms, operating with NASA oversight.

He'll get a fight from members of Congress from states or districts with lots of space industry jobs. Alabama Republican Sen. Richard Shelby called the Obama budget a "death march for the future of U.S. human spaceflight."

Not exactly, senator. For one thing, even though NASA's mission is slated for downsizing, its budget isn't. Obama *increased* NASA's $18 billion-plus budget by $6 billion over five years. Go figure.

And then there are all those jobs that will be created by private companies jockeying for a chunk of the rocket-building business.

In a blog on the Huffington Post, Peter Diamandis, chairman and CEO of the X Prize Foundation, called the shift from NASA bureaucracy to space entrepreneurs "brilliant." The foundation, you may recall, put up a $10 million prize for the first private rocketeers to launch a small piloted craft to the threshold of space. At the moment, Diamandis' foundation is dangling a $25 million prize for entrepreneurs to land a rover on the moon that can travel at least 500 meters and send high-resolution video and other data to Earth. "The U.S. government doesn't build your computers, nor do you fly aboard a U.S. government owned and operated airline," Diamandis wrote. "Private industry routinely takes technologies pioneered by the government and turns them into cheap, reliable and robust industries."

The stars are already in space entrepreneurs' eyes. They see money to be made in space tourism and industry. We hope they're right. It's time to let them take more of the risk—and reward—in finding out.

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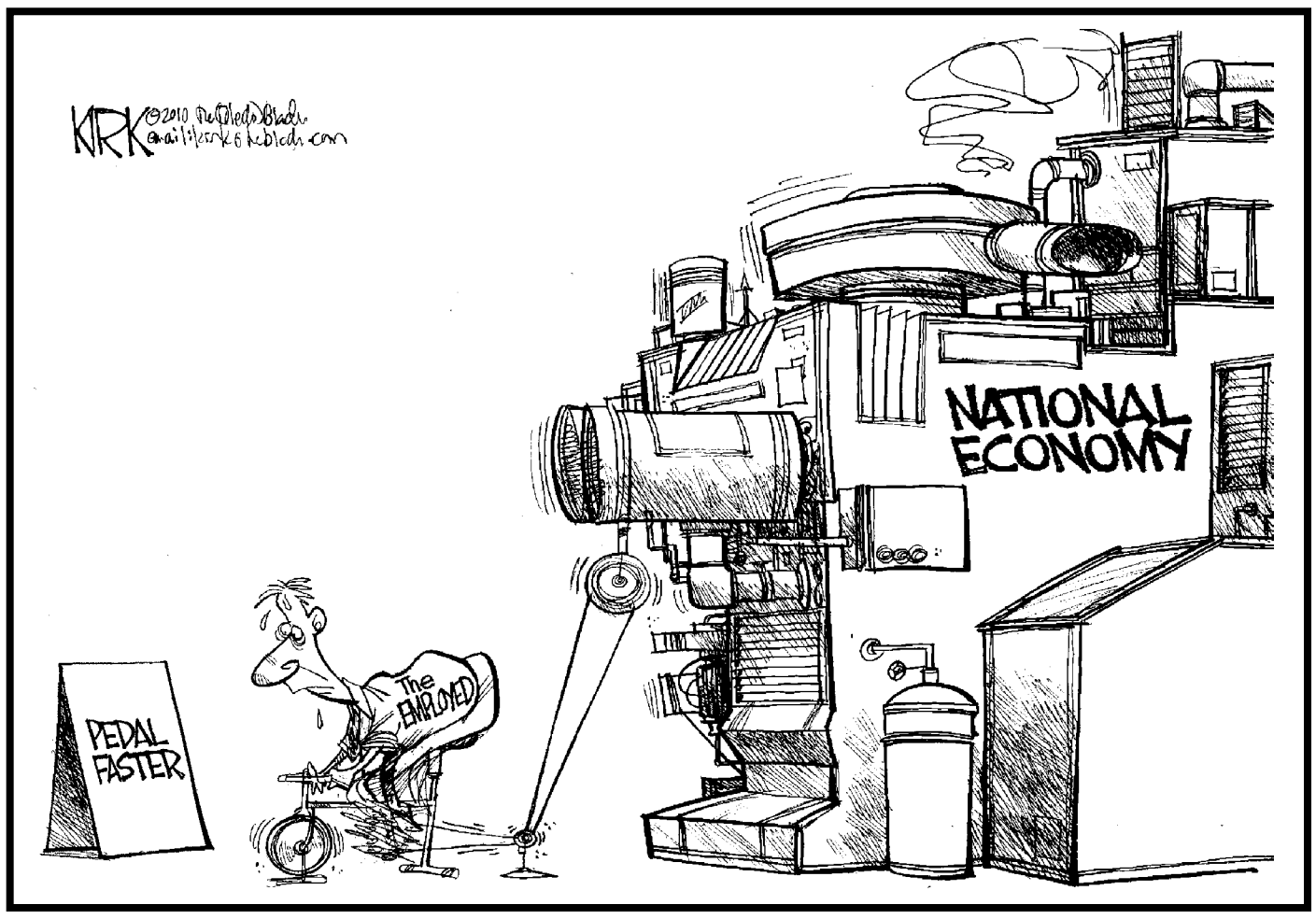

THOUGHTS ON DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL AND RELATED ECONOMIC ISSUES

Starting the long road back to economic recovery

Third in a five-part series

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian and military cartographer.

As mentioned previously in this series I have long been a strong proponent of economic growth through private foreign investment where local capital is either unavailable or insufficient in the amount required to implement a project. However, given the current situation with respect to electricity rates, the federal minimum wage and all the other issues facing the economy, I am beginning to wonder if the islands can ever have a viable and sustained economy under the prevailing conditions until these constraints can be mitigated. But that doesn't mean attempts should not be made to overcome these problems. Self-government is one thing, economic self-sufficiency quite another. It's difficult to have complete independence with the former if the latter is inadequate.

I certainly don't claim to know all the solutions to the islands' economic problems but several thoughts come to mind to at least make attempts to start a recovery. Some have been mentioned in this column before. Perhaps now is a good time to take a second look as there may be something of value to help arrest the island's economic decline. I hope so. Several suggestions follow, none of which are prioritized and none as yet sanctioned by any agency or organization.

Explore U.S. tax advantages for potential businesses operating from the CNMI. There must be many United States firms unaware that businesses registered in the Northern Marianas and engaged in export sales can enjoy significant tax relief from their IRS tax obligation by establishing offices within the CNMI since a portion of the income generated by foreign sales may be exempt from U.S. tax. This is another opportunity to attempt to diversify the economy.

The Northern Marianas has to be sold as a location from which to do business, along with the area's business investment incentives (such as they are). While the passage of local laws offering investment incentives is one thing, such incentives still have to be made known outside the area and recognized by potential investors as business opportunities in which they may be interested. In short, potential projects must be individually and specifically packaged, advertised and the initial inquires adequately and efficiently serviced by the "catalytic" group or organization—whatever. Any investment promotion office that's established should be tasked with the responsibility of preparing documented market and financial feasibility analyses of potential projects for implementation consideration by private investors. These investment prospectus or "tools"—some call them "project profiles"—are effective in giving the project a "paper personality" and used to introduce the Commonwealth's investment opportunities to interested parties. This process must actively involve several of the government's operating departments and agencies, which must begin to view themselves as partners to businesses and render all available assistance to the program. Being in proximity to the vast Asian markets, the Commonwealth's geography might also be promoted as branch sales office locations for American export-oriented firms who recognize the advantage of being situated under the stability provided by the American flag, the U.S. judicial and banking systems along with U. S. copyright, patent and trademark laws while benefiting from the CNMI's (presumed) tax rebate advantages and tropical atmosphere.

As mentioned many times in this column, investment opportunities include encouraging hotel health spas for visitors; the manufacture of "Made in the U.S.A." pharmaceutical products, toys, beachwear, Hafa Adai shirts and dresses similar to the Hawaiian "mu mu"; commercial fishing; cut flowers (which have high value in relation to bulk and can thus be flown to Asian markets); a fishing vessel repair and chandler facility to service blue water Asian fleets operating in the Western Pacific and perhaps even culturing pearls in the Northern Islands.

Nothing should be so small as to be overlooked, remembering that any "grand plan is but the sum of its smallest elements." And it's the smaller projects where the local people have the financial capacity to participate either as 100 percent owners or as joint venture partners.

Undertake a publicity campaign to mitigate the "hangover" of adverse publicity in Asia and the U.S. media which resulted some years ago from Article XII lawsuits.

A possible new opportunity for Asian educational institutions could be a tropical marine biological laboratory on Rota or one of the Northern Islands in association with a Japanese, Chinese, Korean or American university—whatever—as an extension of their campus in cooperation with the NMI's own college. This would permit foreign and U.S. students of marine science to study and gain actual experience in the field. Such activities contribute to diversifying the economic base.

Offer new and creative investment incentives. One of the measures of how badly an area wants foreign investment may be gleaned from the incentives it offers. These can take various forms, several of which follow as examples found in various states on the mainland:

■ Offer a guarantee against an increase in taxes for a specified period;

■ Train U.S. citizen employees for private sector positions in new, high-tech positions at government expense, (i.e., free or at reduced tuition at the college. U.S. grants are available for this purpose);

■ Offer to provide access roads to business site locations not presently located adjacent to a public highway;

■ Provide utility lines to the business property line when such sites are not located along such lines;

■ Assist with the construction of shell buildings for either lease, lease with an option to buy or outright purchase for up to 55 years;

See STARTING on Page 11

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The invisible game

Why some things don't make sense

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Imagine how your life would be different if everything made sense. Imagine if all of life's questions could be answered in ways that made perfect sense and for which you could obtain confirmation. In other words, suppose you could exist with certainty.

A Degree of Certainty

I'm going to suggest to you the following: the reason life often seems unpredictable, the reason why things happen the way they do, and often seem to defy normal standards of human kindness, sanity, morality and ethics is not because men are all evil. It's not because things are beyond our control. It's not because life is essentially bad. It's simply because we don't know the real game that's being played.

There is a formula that goes like this:

"Peace of Mind" comes when persons or a society are "centered." Centered-ness comes from certainty. Certainty comes from only one place: the recognition of patterns. So when a person or society has recognized a pattern as great as all of Creation, there is great certainty and centered-ness, and there is great Peace of Mind."—from The Mayan Calendar: The Next Nine Years

Once a pattern is discerned, it can be recognized again, recorded, codified, tested, extrapolated to other situations and taught as an effective means of negotiating reality. If the pattern is based on natural phenomena, it can be recreated if need be, but more importantly, it can be used to understand the laws that govern those patterns. In other words, once a pattern is recognized, it means that something predictable is behind it. A predictable thing is a knowable thing. It is this knowingness that leads to certainty.

Certainty, like the certainty of having a good tip on a horse race, can help you beat the odds. Life is like that. If you know with a degree of certainty what's going to happen next, you can plan your moves, anticipate, prepare for, adjust and position yourself to create the outcome you desire.

So how can you achieve that knowingness? Answer: Find the right set of rules for the game that is being played.

The Story of the Alien Game

Imagine that you're from another planet, and you and 11 other aliens have come to Earth to live for few years. We meet, and I learn that soccer is played on your planet, and everyone on your planet plays exceptionally well. So, I introduce you and your fellow aliens to the game here on earth, organize a team, and have you play and win championship after championship.

However, after each game, I take you to a bus that's waiting outside and take you back to your dormitory. In that dormitory, I've arranged a television diet of movies 24 hours per day, cartoons, comedies, soap operas and movies that I've carefully selected.

If you never knew that the other team was interviewed on television, given cars and huge paychecks, and if your basic needs were met by the coach, owner and manager (me), and if your contact with the real world were limited, and you never connected your playing of the game to what we call your standard of living, then you could conceivably live your entire time on Earth essentially playing the game on my behalf, appearing to know what's going on, but all the while helping me advance myself based on the game I'm playing, collecting all the money and benefits on your behalf. (But what do you need money for? You'll be gone in a few months back to your planet, where these dollars of earth currency have no value.)

Of course, this example is pure fiction. How in the world could I possibly succeed in making people get up every day, jump through hoops for someone else, and simply miss the entire bigger picture of what's really going on right under their noses?

Of course, if you're reading this essay, you're smart enough to realize that this story is NOT pure fiction. In fact, it might be the perfect metaphor for a life that millions of people live every day. In many ways, there is almost an entire planetary population of pawns and players being misled by those in control of the game they are playing, the rules of that game, what they are shown about reality and how to interpret it, and how much money or other benefit they receive. As a result, they end up playing the game they THINK is being played, only to find out too late that it's not.

They are playing with an incomplete set of rules, what is really going on, what the objective really is, and how to achieve it. They play the game they THINK is being played, the only way they know how—with limited skills and strategy—only to find out too late, and after great frustration, that they're playing the wrong game, by virtue of not knowing the real rules.

The aliens in our example were playing a visible game while missing the invisible game being played right under their noses.

If things aren't proceeding in an orderly, predictable and pattern-based way in your life, and if you're not getting the benefits and rewards you are entitled to, you too may be playing an alien game. You may be playing based on a worldview that recognizes only what's visible.

The Invisible Game

If you believe that this game is only about what's visible, then many of life's questions appear to have answers that make little sense, and don't seem to maintain any degree of consistency or pattern as far as your basic understanding of reality.

Many people believe that many of life's important questions have no answers. By that I mean, people are given seemingly logical, plausible or scientific reasons to explain the events leading up to a war, for example, or taught concepts like crib death that explain why infants die, or given astute psychological analyses of deep scars and emotional disturbances as being the roots of people's antisocial behavior, but when people ask "why" they usually want to know what's the divine plan behind it all. They are intuitively seeking the invisible game, but are often encouraged to look only at what's accessible by the five senses, while dismissing everything else as mystery, paranormal or "conspiracy theory."

I suggest to you that there is, in fact, a different game being played. It is a game with a set of rules that is going to require a great deal of courage to accept. Accepting these new rules is going to mean uprooting your current beliefs; it's going to mean living with the awareness that you've been lied to, that your parents, priests, politicians, and professors—though not responsible for it—are collaborators in the perpetuation of the lie, that you will be perceived as crazy, and that you may be branded a heretic or dissenter for sticking to and promoting your new beliefs.

These invisible beliefs are not new ideas. They exist in many shapes and forms in a variety of texts (old and new), and are held and propagated in various worldviews, curricula, belief systems and observations.

The Saipanpreneur Project

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

In fact, the whole set of knowledge that people refer to as self-help, personal development, new age, quantum energy, etc. is about introducing people to "new" (previously invisible) ways of thinking, being and behaving that are more in alignment with the real game. As our global consciousness and awareness evolves, more and more people are being introduced to snippets of truth that are allowing them to live more productive, fulfilling, purposeful lives.

The Payoff

So why should you choose to adopt a new set of beliefs? Well, if your life is exactly the way you wish it be, then there's no reason to entertain a new belief system really. However, if you dream of living a different sort of life, then perhaps there is reason to begin a search for a more effective set of beliefs about yourself, the world you live in, the people you share it with, and the reason for it all—the invisible game.

Here's the payoff: If you understand the invisible game, then the visible game gets a whole lot easier. If you understand what's really going on, then you can be pre-emptive in your actions. If you understand where to look for answers, then you can never be lost for too long. If you recognize where power exists, you can tap into it and get on with the real game for which you game. And if people's actions seem inexplicable by "normal" standards of morals and ethics, it's because you don't have all the information about the game that's being played.

The truth is, life can be mastered. There are things you could choose to believe that would help the world make sense to you.

There are things you could choose to believe that would make the world entirely predictable to such a degree that it would astound you and your friends. It would even seem that you have the ability to predict the future. Yes, hidden within the invisible game is the power and peace of mind you seek!

■ ■ ■ ■

***Note**: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of Web sites that revealed the best things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!*

Note: Fans and followers of the book, *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* are encouraged to place orders at www.saipanfactorygirl.com. A new shipment is coming soon, and people are already claiming their copies even before it arrives! Don't miss out!

■ ■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 15 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here on Saipan. To learn more, visit www.passionprofit.com and follow Walt on Twitter (waltonsaipan).

THOUGHTS

From Page 10

■ Abandoned garment manufacturing buildings might be suitable in some instances if the investor can avoid being "mouse trapped" into only the tenure of the remaining period on the original lease;

■ Breath new life into the Free Trade Zone at the airport and seaport to accommodate light, export-oriented manufacturing, bonded warehouses, etc.

■ Provide for duty free importation of raw materials equipment and supplies (when not for resale within the area) if it isn't already part of the FTZ legislation—I can't remember.

The FTZ has been languishing without tenants since 1997. Why? What's wrong? Investigate the reason why the FTZ has not been as successful as originally hoped. The reason may shed light of the CNMI's overall economic ailment and offer insight into a bigger problem inhibiting growth. To be continued.

Editor's Note: The author has been a project specific investment advisor identifying and documenting a variety of privately financed productive enterprises for foreign governments in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Pacific Islands as well as development finance institutions including the World Bank. He specialized in methods to stimulate economic growth through increased private foreign investment.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Message of appreciation

The Tinian Volleyball Club would like to extend its sincerest appreciation and heartfelt thanks to the following donors and sponsors who made it possible for us to participate in the 2010 Drug-Free Jam Attack Volleyball by supporting our efforts to fundraise and by providing financial assistance toward the expenses of our trip.

- Mr. Julian Hofschneider (Zack's CD Rack)
- Mr.&Mrs. Kwon (Cha-Cha Poker)
- Congressman Trenton B. Conner
- Ms. Lydia F. Barcinas
- *Marianas Variety*
- Island Store
- Long Feng Corp.
- Huangshun Corp. (U-Save Market)
- Tinian Family Market

Our team, which was composed of Team Zack Attack Men's and Women's and Marianas Variety Girls, performed well during the tournament with the women's team Zack Attack garnering third place and men's team Zack Attack receiving the sportsmanship award. Once again, thank you for all your support.

Tinian Volleyball Club
via e-mail

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy and breezy in the morning then becoming mostly sunny. A slight chance of showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲82	▼74
Palau	Showers	▲88	▼77
Yap	Sunny	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼79
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲87	▼75
Majuro	Cloudy	▲83	▼74

Around The Globe

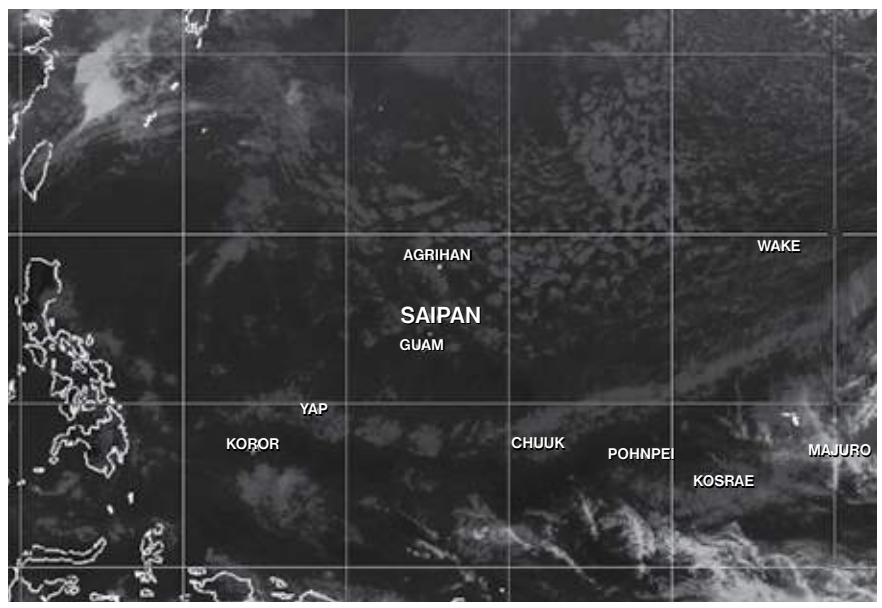
Auckland	Showers	▲72	▼65
Beijing	Flurries	▲34	▼21
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼72
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼70
London	Rain/Snow	▲41	▼30
Los Angeles	Showers	▲60	▼48
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼74
Melbourne	Thundershowers	▲88	▼71
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼46
New York	Snow	▲31	▼25
Osaka	Showers	▲54	▼41
Paris	Flurries	▲36	▼23
Pusan	Rain	▲52	▼46
Rome	Showers	▲53	▼38
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲49	▼40
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲57	▼45
Seoul	Cloudy	▲37	▼30
Tokyo	Rain	▲45	▼38
Washington, DC	Snow	▲35	▼23

Tides

Saipan Harbor

7:02 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:51 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
4:29 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends southeastward from 25N136E to 21N141E with broken clouds and patchy rain within 125 miles of the trough. A cold front south of Wake Island extends from 21N180 southwestward across Enewetak atoll to near Chuuk at 7N153E then continues westward as a shear line between Yap and Palau to end near 9N133E. Scattered to broken clouds and patchy rain are found along and up to 125 miles north of the shear line while broken to overcast clouds and scattered showers are found along and up to 150 miles northwest of the cold front. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers southeast of Palau within 100 miles of a line from 5N135E to 4N138E and in an area from Kosrae across the Marshall Islands within 150 miles of a line from 4N163 to 12N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Thursday	6:43 AM	6:19 PM
Friday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Saturday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Sunday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:43 AM	3:08 PM
Thursday	4:30 AM	4:00 PM
Friday	5:13 AM	4:50 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	5:39 PM
Sunday	6:30 AM	6:26 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 28, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
CO9601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
CO9605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
CO9599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT
NW638	8:00am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily
NW289	5:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA8282	3:15am	7:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
CO9603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7 via ICN
CO9605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
CO9599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
CO9602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily via NRT effective Jan 25
NW277	8:30pm	1:00am+1	3, 6
NW639	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA8281	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/CO9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
CO892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
CO934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CA: China Airlines; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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Business

Toyota recalling Prius in Japan for brakes

TOKYO (AP)—Toyota is recalling about 170,000 Prius hybrid cars in Japan for braking problems and will soon disclose its global plans for a fix as the automaker scrambles to repair damage to its reputation from a spate of safety problems.

Toyota's president Akio Toyoda will hold a news conference at the automaker's Tokyo office later Tuesday to outline details of the braking problem, including plans for a possible recall in the U.S., a company official told The Associated Press.

The number of Priuses being recalled would swell to about 300,000 if there is a recall in the U.S. and other regions.

The braking problem for the third-generation remodeled Prius is the latest safety woe for Toyota, which is already trying to fix problems in millions of vehicles recalled for other defects, including a sticky gas pedal.

Toyota Motor Corp. said it will inform the Transport Ministry later in the day it is recalling the 2010 Prius gas-electric hybrid—the world's top-selling hybrid car

Also being recalled are two other hybrid models—the Lexus HS250h sedan, sold in the U.S. and Japan, and the Sai, which is sold only in Japan.

U.S. safety officials have launched an investigation into problems with the brakes.

The recall in Japan will cover about 170,000 of the 2010 model Prius, which went on sale in May. The automaker has fixed the programming glitch in Prius models that went on sale since last month, but had done nothing yet on the cars sold before then, according to Toyota.

There have been nearly 200 complaints in Japan and the U.S. of drivers experiencing a short delay before the brakes kick in—a problem that can be fixed with a software programming change. The delay doesn't indicate a brake failure.

Transformers drive Hasbro 4Q profit increase

AP

In this Nov. 27, 2009 file photo, Deborah Lima checks out a Transformers toy at a Wal-Mart store in Marietta, Ga.

NEW YORK (AP)—Strength in its boys' brands like Transformers and Nerf, along with its core game brands including Scrabble and Monopoly, should boost Hasbro's results in 2010, the company said Monday.

The owner of the G.I. Joe, Tonka and Playskool brands also said it expects sales and earnings per share to grow this year, although it didn't offer specifics.

Combined with strong fourth-quarter earnings, the positive news sent Hasbro shares up 12 percent, and they briefly touched a 52-week high. Hasbro has seen earnings-per-share grow for nine years straight and revenue for five.

The quarter's big sellers for boys—Transformers, G.I. Joe, Nerf, Play-Doh and Tonka—helped sales climb 12 percent to $1.38 billion, from $1.23 billion a year earlier.

"Overall in 2009, the global economic environment did not improve significantly, but it also did not deteriorate further," CEO Brian Goldner said.

The fourth quarter is key for toy makers because it contains the holiday period and can produce up to half of their annual sales.

Transformers—boosted by the movie "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" in June—produced $592 million in revenue in 2009, a 23 percent increase over 2007, when the original "Transformers" movie debuted.

Revenue for G.I. Joe, also boosted by a summer blockbuster in 2009, totaled more than $125 million. Nerf, Play-Doh and Tonka grew 25 percent during the year.

Goldner said momentum was continuing in boys' brands.

The company's girls' brands were weaker. PlaySkool and Furreal Friends sales were hurt by higher-price items in those lines in 2008 that were taken out of the line in 2009.

Fourth-quarter profit rose 77 percent to $165.6 million, or $1.09 per share, from $93.6 million, or 62 cents per share, last year. That surpassed the 81 cents per share analysts polled by Thomson Reuters expected.

Sales climbed 12 percent to $1.38 billion from $1.23 billion, topping Wall Street's estimate of $1.34 billion.

AstraZeneca gets OK for expanded use of Crestor

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal regulators have granted AstraZeneca approval to market its cholesterol pill Crestor as a preventive measure against heart attack and stroke in patients with healthy cholesterol levels.

The Food and Drug Administration decision will allow the company to promote Crestor to millions of U.S. patients who traditionally have not been candidates for cholesterol-lowering drugs.

The agency posted a briefing on the approval to its Web site late Monday.

London-based AstraZeneca studied the new use in a much-heralded 2008 study, showing Crestor reduced heart attack, stroke and other problems by 44 percent in patients with normal cholesterol and slight heart disease risks.

All the patients had elevated levels of the so-called C-reactive protein, a key indicator of inflammation that can lead to clogged arteries, causing heart attack or stroke.

Scientists are still unsure whether the positive results were due to lower cholesterol or C-reactive protein, since Crestor reduces both.

Under the new language, Crestor is approved for men 50 and older, and women 60 and older who have elevated C-reactive protein. Patients must also have at least one risk factor for heart trouble, such as high blood pressure or a smoking habit.

The FDA has previously estimated more than 6 million people in the U.S. could be eligible for Crestor under the expanded labeling.

Judge promises to rule on SEC, BofA settlement

NEW YORK (AP)—A judge promised Monday to decide by the end of next week whether to approve a $150 million settlement between the Securities and Exchange Commission and Bank of America over civil charges alleging the bank misled shareholders when it acquired Merrill Lynch.

U.S. District Judge Jed Rakoff said he will decide only after giving lawyers on both sides a written list of questions he has and hearing their responses.

Rakoff last year rejected a $33 million settlement stemming from the early 2009 acquisition, calling it a breach of "justice and morality" that was "done at the expense, not only of the shareholders, but also of the truth."

He made clear that the new pact will require some changes, including the possibility of leaving the court some ability to oversee important issues related to the company such as compensation.

The SEC had accused Bank of America of failing to disclose to shareholders that it had authorized Merrill to pay up to $5.8 billion in bonuses to its employees in 2008 even though the investment bank lost $27.6 billion that year.

In reviewing the new settlement, Rakoff said he did not think it made sense to leave no oversight of the company in choosing its compensation consultant, especially given the "incredibly bloated compensation of too many executives in too many American companies."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Wintry weather drives energy prices higher

NEW YORK (AP)—Energy prices climbed Monday as another winter storm was expected to dump even more snow on the East Coast. Already, parts of Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Washington are blanketed in about three feet of snow, knocking out power for tens of thousands of people and forcing government offices to close. As those regions dig out and warm up, analysts said they expected to see sizable draws on the country's supply of natural gas and heating oil. Mid-Atlantic states are some of the biggest natural gas and heating oil consumers in the country.

Asian stocks mixed after Wall St decline

BEIJING (AP)—Asian stocks were mixed Tuesday following Wall Street's overnight decline on lingering worries about high European debt levels. Tokyo, Hong Kong and Sydney were down while Shanghai, Seoul and Singapore gained. That came after the Dow Jones industrial average closed below 10,000 for the first time in three months on concerns that debt problems in weaker European economies such as Greece might spark problems for the global financial system.

Boeing's 747-8 freighter completes first flight

EVERETT, Wash. (AP)—Boeing Co.'s giant 747-8 freighter—the biggest plane the company has ever built—successfully completed its first flight Monday, a year later than originally planned. The huge plane took off from Everett's Paine Field shortly after noon and returned to Paine at 4:18 p.m. PST after an approximately 3 1/2-hour flight. A crowd Boeing estimated at more than 5,000 employees, customers, suppliers and other airplane fans gathered to watch the plane take to the air. The flight came just one day short of the 41st anniversary of the first flight of the original 747 model.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	4,517.20 Down 21.60 (-0.48%)
HONG KONG	19,586.19 Up 35.30 (0.18%)
JAKARTA	2,445.83 Down 29.74 (-1.20%)
TOKYO	9,934.20 Down 17.62 (-0.18%)
K. LUMPUR	1,227.63 Down 7.59 (-0.61%)
MANILA	2,797.61 Down 48.99 (-1.72%)
SINGAPORE	2,703.10 Up 9.48 (0.35%)
SEOUL	1,558.08 Up 5.29 (0.34%)
BANGKOK	682.63 Down 5.46 (-0.79%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	9,908.39 -103.84
NASDAQ	2,126.05 -15.07
S&P	1,056.74 -9.45

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1526
British Pound	0.6403
Canadian Dollar	1.0722
Chinese Renminbi	6.8267
Euro	0.7303
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7697
Indian Rupee	46.7280
Indonesian Rupiah	9,383.2500
Japanese Yen	89.3840
Malaysian Ringgit	3.4383
New Zealand Dollar	1.4584
Philippine Peso	46.6590
Singapore Dollar	1.4212
South Korean Won	1,164.4500
Swiss Franc	1.0719
Taiwan Dollar	32.1040
Thailand Baht	33.1900

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Rep. John Murtha, Iraq war critic, dies at 77

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—Rep. John Murtha, the tall, gruff-mannered former Marine who became the de facto voice of veterans on Capitol Hill and later an outspoken and influential critic of the Iraq War, died Monday. He was 77. The Pennsylvania Democrat had been suffering from complications from gallbladder surgery. He died at Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, Va., with his family at his bedside, the hospital said.

In 1974 Murtha, then an officer in the Marine Reserves, became the first Vietnam War combat veteran elected to Congress. Ethical questions often shadowed his congressional service, but he was best known for being among Congress' most hawkish Democrats. He wielded considerable clout for two decades as the ranking Democrat on the House subcommittee that oversees Pentagon spending.

Murtha voted in 2002 to authorize President George W. Bush to use military force in Iraq, but his growing frustration over the administration's handling of the war prompted him in November 2005 to call for an immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops.

"The war in Iraq is not going as advertised. It is a flawed policy wrapped in illusion," he said.

AP

In this May 29, 2009 file photo, Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., center, answers a reporter's question about Kuchera Defense Systems Inc., after attending a breakfast at the "Showcase for Commerce" trade show in Johnstown, Pa.

Murtha's opposition to the Iraq war rattled Washington, where he enjoyed bipartisan respect for his work on military issues. On Capitol Hill, Murtha was seen as speaking for those in uniform when it came to military matters.

Murtha "was the first Vietnam veteran to serve in Congress, and he was incredibly effective in his service in the House," said Rep. David Obey, a Democrat and chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. "He understood the misery of war. Every person who serves in the military has lost an advocate and a good friend today."

Seats at a premium on planes, trains out of DC

WASHINGTON (AP)—A $20 cab ride to the airport skyrocketed to the "snow rate" of $100 in the nation's capital, and those travelers who could get to the airport or train station still had to haggle or wait in long lines to escape the snowbound Mid-Atlantic.

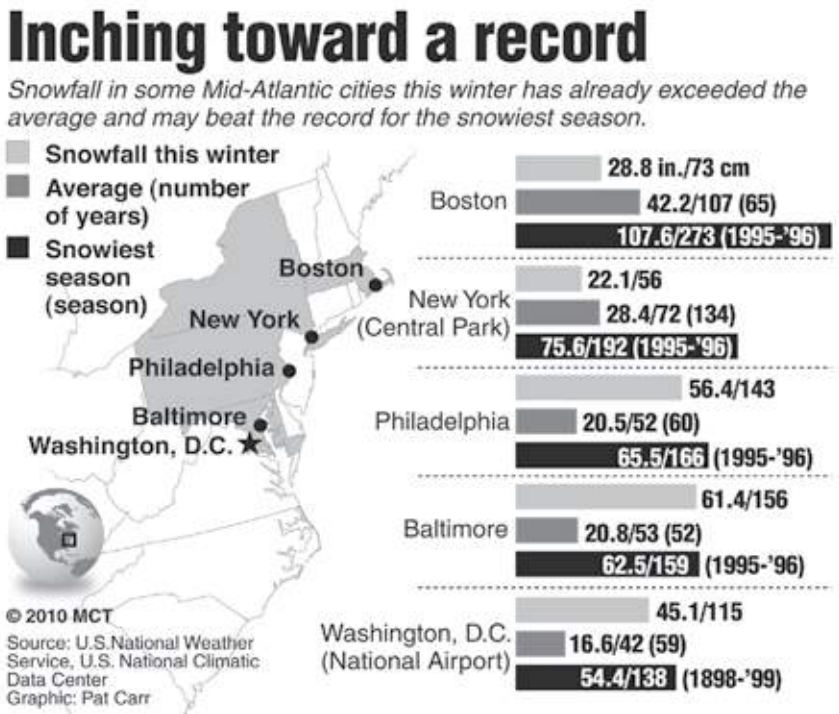
The most pressing matter: get out before another foot or more of snow comes Tuesday.

"I'm done with city, urban snow life," said Chris Vaughan, a Washington resident who was able to re-book a flight to go skiing in Utah. He dodged the pricey cab fare by having a friend drop him off at the airport - in exchange for a bottle of wine.

The region had nearly 3 feet of snow in some areas. One scientist said if all the snow that fell on the East Coast were melted, it would fill 12 million Olympic swimming pools or 30,000 Empire State buildings. Philadelphia and Washington each need just a little more than nine inches to give the cities their snowiest winters since 1884, the first year records were kept.

Meteorologists predicted the snow would start Tuesday afternoon and continue into Wednesday. Between 12 and 18 inches was forecast for Philadelphia, the nation's sixth-largest city and a travel hub—which could cause a ripple effect of travel problems for the rest of the Northeast. Airlines warned travelers more flights would be canceled, and the new storm was expected to hit a wider area, affecting New York and Boston.

Sharon Lewis of Bowie, Md., was desperate to spend time with family in Trinidad. She bargained for an hour and got a flight to New York's Laguardia Airport. But it came with caveat, she would then would have to drive across town in rush hour traffic to make a connecting flight at John F. Kennedy airport within an hour.



Obama's health care summit: Just for show?

WASHINGTON (AP)—Could this turn into something more than political theater? President Barack Obama's televised dialogue with Republican lawmakers on health care, promised for later this month, has the makings of an entertaining exchange. But the differences between the basic Democratic and GOP ideas are stark—and the two sides have increasingly hardened their positions in this election year.

Obama

Yet, in a story with more twists than a soap opera, Obama's invitation to congressional leaders of both parties to attend a Feb. 25 meeting can't be dismissed as a mere diversion. Although many Americans have doubts about the Democrats' sweeping plans to cover the uninsured, Republicans can't afford to be perceived as oblivious to the health care insecurities of middle-class families.

"My expectations? Probably below 50 percent, but not zero," said Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-Va., a moderate who serves as president of the Democratic freshman class. "At some point, the public is going to demand that Republicans participate like mature adults, and not just say 'no' to everything."

It's the Democrats' big-government approach—not Republicans—that's the problem, insisted Rep. Dave Camp, R-Mich., author of the House GOP bill. "The president has got to show that he has heard what the American people are saying. He's got to make clear we are not going to start off with the current bill."

But where to start?

■ Democrats want an upfront commitment to cover most of the nearly 50 million uninsured Americans. Republicans prefer first taking steps to cut costs, then revisiting the issue of full coverage over time.

■ Democrats would raise taxes to provide government subsidies for people who can't afford to buy health insurance. Republicans say now is not the time to increase taxes.

Lawyer: Wife mulled extorting Ill. murder suspect

JOLIET, Ill. (AP)—Days before a former suburban Chicago police officer's fourth wife vanished in 2007, she told a divorce attorney that her husband thought she suspected he had killed his previous wife and suggested extorting money from him to keep quiet, the lawyer testified Monday.

The dramatic details provided by Harry Smith were the first in more than three weeks of testimony that recounted Stacy Peterson talking directly about Drew Peterson's alleged involvement in the 2004 death of his third wife, Kathleen Savio.

Stacy Peterson told the lawyer that her husband was angry because he believed she had told a person named "Tom" that he killed Savio, Smith testified.

Smith, a divorce attorney for Savio, did not further identify Tom, but it is the name of one of Savio and Peterson's sons and of Thomas Morphey, a friend of Drew Peterson who testified that he helped the former Bolingbrook police sergeant move a blue barrel he believed contained Stacy Peterson's remains.

The hearing will determine what hearsay evidence will be allowed at Peterson's upcoming murder trial. Savio's body was found in her bathtub in 2004 and her death was ruled an accident. But after Stacy Peterson went missing in 2007, Savio's body was exhumed and her death reclassified as a homicide.

ACROSS THE NATION

Attorney: Ala. school shooting likely gang-related

MADISON, Ala. (AP)—A lawyer for a ninth-grader charged with shooting a fellow student to death at their Alabama school says the violence was likely related to gang activity. Bruce Gardner represents a 14-year-old boy being held in the slaying of Todd Brown, a fellow ninth grader at Discovery Middle School in Madison. Brown was killed Friday. Gardner's client is charged murder. He's being held pending a hearing next week on whether he'll be tried as an adult. Gardner said Monday he believes that evidence will show the slaying was related to gang activity. He said his client was in a gang.

NY murder defendant learned about burning bodies

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP)—A 68-year-old New York man accused of killing his wife and burning her body says he learned how bodies are cremated when he questioned a mortician about his mother's cremation. Werner Lippe (LIP'-ee) insists that he did not kill or incinerate his wife. He says he used the mortician's information to concoct a false confession. Lippe testified Monday at his murder trial in Westchester County Court. He said the last time he saw his wife, Faith Lippe, she was being driven away from their home in Cortlandt in an unfamiliar SUV on Oct. 3, 2008.

Woman chasing dog falls to death off Calif. cliff

MENDOCINO, Calif. (AP)—Authorities in California say a woman fell about 60 feet to her death after she chased her dog off a cliff in the Mendocino headlands. The chief of the Mendocino Volunteer Fire Department says witnesses on Sunday saw the woman disappear over the cliff while running after her dog. Her dog had fallen about halfway down the cliff but was later rescued. Danny Hervilla says the woman's body was recovered from a small, rocky beach area, where high tides and rough surf threatened to pull the body out to sea. Her identity has not been released. Hervilla says the woman is the fourth person to die after a fall from the cliffs in the area in the past 18 months.

Police: Man tries to buy crack with credit card

FLINT, Mich. (AP)—Authorities said a man accused of stealing a car then reporting it stolen remains in custody after telling police he was robbed at gunpoint while trying to buy crack cocaine with a credit card. The Flint Journal said the man reported Thursday night that a 2003 Chevy Malibu had been stolen. Police reports indicated the vehicle was previously stolen out of Lapeer, about 50 miles north-northwest of Detroit. The suspect is being lodged at the Genesee County Jail. No further details were released.

Asia

Report: NKorea's Kim reiterates disarmament pledge

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Il assured a high-level envoy visiting from Beijing that Pyongyang is committed to a nuclear-free Korean peninsula, China's state news agency reported Tuesday.

Kim reportedly made the pledge during a meeting Monday in the North Korean capital at the start of a week of diplomacy designed to get the stalled six-nation nuclear disarmament talks back on track. A high-level U.N. envoy also was due in Pyongyang on Tuesday.

North Korea walked away from the disarmament talks last year during a standoff over its nuclear and missile programs. The disarmament process includes the two Koreas, China, Russia, Japan and the U.S.

Pyongyang, however, has been reaching out to Washington, Seoul and Beijing in recent months, and has taken tentative steps toward discussing how to get the process going again.

"The sincerity of relevant parties to resume the six-party talks is very important," Kim said during a meeting with top Chinese Communist Party official Wang Jiarui, Xinhua News Agency reported from Pyongyang. Kim reiterated his country's "persistent stance to realize the denuclearization" of the peninsula, it said.

Earlier Tuesday, Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency reported that Wang conveyed to Kim a verbal message from Chinese President Hu Jintao and that the North Korean leader asked him to convey his regards to Hu.

KCNA said the two had a "cordial and friendly conversation" but didn't elaborate on what was discussed.

AP

In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, front right, meets with senior Chinese Communist Party envoy Wang Jiarui, front left, in Hamhung-si, South Hamgyong-do, North Korea, on Monday, Feb. 8, 2010.

North Korea has offered similar disarmament promises in the past, but a Seoul-based analyst still called Kim's remarks a positive development.

"I think Kim Jong Il will soon send his envoy to China to more clearly disclose his disarmament plan and set a date for his country's return to the six-party talks," said Yang Moo-jin of Seoul's University of North Korean Studies.

Later Tuesday, North Korea's top nuclear envoy, Kim Kye Gwan, arrived in Beijing with Wang, who returned home after a four-day trip to Pyongyang, according to South Korea's Yonhap news agency. Yonhap, citing unidentified diplomatic sources in Beijing, said the North Korean envoy's trip is believed aimed at discussing the six-party talks.

China's Foreign Ministry had no immediate comment on Kim's reported arrival.

Pyongyang on Saturday released an American missionary detained since Christmas for illegal entry, and on Monday officials from the two Koreas met in a North Korean border town to discuss restarting joint tours suspended in 2008.

U.N. political chief B. Lynn Pascoe, who travels to North Korea this week, is reportedly bearing a letter from U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon of South Korea. Pascoe's trip will be the first by a high-level U.N. official since 2004, according to Seoul's Foreign Ministry.

Pascoe will urge North Korea to rejoin the nuclear talks, and discuss the country's relationship with the world body, a U.N. official in New York said on condition of anonymity, citing policy.

NATO says Afghans to play large role in future offensive

CAMP SHORABAK, Afghanistan (AP)—Thousands of Afghan soldiers and police will join U.S. and NATO troops in an upcoming offensive in southern Afghanistan, playing their biggest role in any joint operation of the Afghan war.

The pending attack on the Taliban-held town of Marjah in Helmand province will be a crucial test for the NATO strategy of transferring more responsibility to the Afghans so foreign troops can go home.

Exact numbers of NATO and Afghan troops earmarked for the assault on Marjah have not been disclosed for security reasons. However, U.S. and Afghan officers said the percentage of Afghan soldiers and police will be far greater than the 10-to-one ratio of Americans to Afghans during the last major offensive in Helmand province last summer.

Whatever the real figures, NATO and Afghan officials are going out of their way to promote the attack on Marjah as an Afghan-led joint operation. The offensive is called "Operation Moshtarak," a Dari language word for together or joint.

Last week, the Afghan and U.S. Marine commanders joked around in front of cameras to promote an image of camaraderie, with the Afghan grabbing the Marine general's hat and trading it for his black beret.

"They're fighting the war shoulder-to-shoulder with us," Brig. Gen. Larry Nicholson, the top Marine commander in Afghanistan, said of the Afghans. "Wherever you see a Marine, you'll see an Afghan. This isn't fluff, this isn't talk, this is the real deal."

Huge recovery effort revives China's quake zone

WENCHUAN, China (AP)—Couples gather near dusk to practice ballroom dancing by the new cultural center, twirling leisurely in the heart of a city so devastated by the 2008 Sichuan earthquake that leaders had planned to simply seal it off and rebuild elsewhere.

Down the road at Wenchuan's new "House of Sunshine" apartment complex, families move into just-completed units, and Qiang ethnic minority women in vibrantly colored aprons line up at a new 200-bed hospital that was built in just 90 days.

As Haiti struggles with the fallout from last month's devastating earthquake, China is showing off the results of its massive drive to rebuild its own quake zone in this seismically active corner of southwest China, where sheer peaks and deep valleys form the foothills of the Tibetan plateau.

Just 22 months after the 7.9-magnitude temblor struck, swaths of exposed rock and dirt that appear to have been clawed out of the mountain sides are the only immediate signs of the devastation that left nearly 90,000 dead or missing and another 5 million homeless.

"We've recovered pretty quick," said Song Jinfeng, a project manager strolling beside Wenchuan's Min river that had been the only route of escape after the quake sent rock slides hurtling down the slopes, blocking all major roads.

"It's housing first, then basic infrastructure, public services and finally jobs," Song said, listing the project's oft repeated priorities.

Key to this success has been the allocation of about $11 billion in government reconstruction funds, an option not available to impoverished Haiti, where January's 7.0-magnitude earthquake killed an estimated 200,000 people and left 3 million in need of food, shelter and medicine.

While per capita annual incomes in the Sichuan quake zones hover at around 3,000 yuan ($440), China's booming economy and surging government revenues mean there is no shortage of funding.

Add to that fiscal muscle China's powerful manufacturing and construction capacity, a surfeit of engineering expertise, and strong transport infrastructure. A further advantage in China's topdown communist system, which is suited to such crisis response, setting clear goals without lengthy discussion, and providing a cadre of party officials accountable to the leadership.

Sri Lankan opposition leader arrested for sedition

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's defeated presidential candidate was hauled from his office by military police Monday and will be court-martialed for allegedly planning to overthrow the government while serving as the head of the army.

Sarath Fonseka, who as the top general helped defeat the Tamil Tiger rebels, was forcibly detained after objecting to his arrest, opposition politician Rauff Hakeem told The Associated Press.

Fonseka and President Mahinda Rajapaksa were once strong allies who combined to end the country's 25-year civil war last May. But they subsequently fell out, and Fonseka quit his post. They contested a bitter election last month for the presidency that Rajapaksa won by 17 percentage points, according to official results.

Even as those votes were counted on Jan. 26, hundreds of government troops surrounded a Colombo hotel where Fonseka and other opposition leaders had gathered to await the results. He was later allowed to leave the building, but the show of force foreshadowed Monday's arrest.

Officials have repeatedly accused Fonseka of plotting to kill Rajapaksa and overthrow the government with the help of army deserters and former military officers since the election. Fonseka has called the allegations fabricated and vowed to push on with his political career. A number of serving officers, which the government said were considered to be a threat to national security, have been fired.

Now, government minister Keheliya Rambukwella says Fonseka will be tried in a military court on charges of conspiring against the president and planning a coup while army chief.

"When he was the army commander and chief of defense staff and member of the security council, he had direct contact with opposition political parties, which under the military law can amount to conspiracy," Rambukwella said.

"He's been plotting against the president while in the military ... with the idea of overthrowing the government," he added.

Mano Ganeshan, an opposition lawmaker, said Fonseka was "arrested and forcibly carried away" while having a discussion with a group of political allies.

Hakeem said Fonseka objected to being arrested by military police instead of civilian officers, since he was no longer in the military.

The officers dragged Fonseka and his secretary by their hands and legs into their vehicles, Hakeem said.

"He was humiliated and disgraced in the way he was handled. We were just flabbergasted," he said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China sentences quake activist to 5 years' jail

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese court Tuesday sentenced an activist who investigated the deaths of thousands of schoolchildren in the country's massive 2008 earthquake to five years in jail for inciting subversion of state power, the man's lawyer said. Attorney Pu Zhiqiang said activist Tan Zuoren was convicted of the charge Tuesday by the Chengdu Intermediate Court. Tan's trial in August had concluded with no ruling, while police detained and threatened the man's supporters. Tan's supporters say they believe the authorities were trying to silence him for his investigation into the collapse of schools in the 7.9-magnitude earthquake that struck in Sichuan province in May 2008, leaving almost 90,000 dead or missing. Tan estimated at least 5,600 students were among the dead.

Body found in landing gear of NY-to-Tokyo flight

TOKYO (AP)—A body was found inside a wheel well of a Delta Air Lines plane after it landed in Tokyo from New York, and Japanese authorities Monday were trying to identify the man. The body of the apparent stowaway was clad only in a long-sleeved, plaid shirt and jeans, police at Narita International Airport said. A mechanic found the body lying inside the landing gear compartment of the Boeing 777-200 during maintenance after Delta Flight 59 landed Sunday night, police official Zenjiro Watanabe said.

Bus plunges down ravine in south China, killing 7

BEIJING (AP)—A bus collided with a sport utility vehicle Monday and plunged down a mountain ravine in southern China, killing seven people and injuring 50, state media reported. At least 53 people were on the bus, which was traveling on a highway in the Guangxi region, when it rolled down the 320-foot- (100-meter-) deep ravine, the official Xinhua News Agency said, citing police in Hechi city near the crash. Four people were in the SUV. The report said 33 people, including the driver of the SUV, were seriously injured.

Bomb hits truck carrying Thai soldiers; 7 wounded

BANGKOK (AP)—Police say suspected insurgents detonated a bomb as two truckloads of soldiers passed, wounding seven troops in Thailand's restive south. Police Lt. Heraman Jehdee says the attack happened Monday afternoon soon after the vehicles with 38 soldiers left a camp in Bo-ngo subdistrict in Narathiwat province. He says police found a gas canister at the scene used to plant the mobile phone-triggered explosive device. More than 4,000 people have been killed in Thailand's three southern provinces since an Islamist insurgency flared in 2004. The provinces are the only Muslim-majority areas in the predominantly Buddhist country, and Muslims have long complained of discrimination by the central government.

World

Iran moves closer to nuke warhead capacity

VIENNA (AP)—Iran pressed ahead Monday with plans that will increase its ability to make nuclear weapons as it formally informed the U.N. nuclear agency of its intention to enrich uranium to higher levels.

Alarmed world powers questioned the rationale behind the move and warned the country it could face more U.N. sanctions if it made good on its intentions.

Iran maintains its nuclear activities are peaceful, and an envoy insisted the move was meant only to provide fuel for Tehran's research reactor. But world powers fearing that Iran's enrichment program might be a cover for a weapons program were critical.

Britain said the Islamic Republic's reason for further enrichment made no sense because it is not technically advanced enough to turn the resulting material into the fuel rods needed for the reactor.

France and the U.S. said the latest Iranian move left no choice but to push harder for a fourth set of U.N. Security Council sanctions to punish Iran's nuclear defiance.

AP

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, wears eye protection goggles as he visits an exhibition of Iran's laser science, in Tehran, Iran, Sunday, Feb. 7, 2010.

Even a senior parliamentarian from Russia, which traditionally opposes Western ambitions for new U.N. sanctions, suggested the time had now come for such additional punishment

Konstantin Kosachev, head of the international affairs committee of the State Duma—the lower house of parliament—told the Interfax news agency that the international community should "react to this step with serious measures, including making the regime of economic sanctions more severe."

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had already announced Sunday that his country would significantly enrich at least some of the country's stockpile of uranium to 20 percent. Still, Monday's formal notification was significant, particularly because of Iran's waffling in recent months on the issue.

Western powers blame Iran for rejecting an internationally endorsed plan to take Iranian low enriched uranium, further enriching it and return it in the form of fuel rods for the reactor—and in broader terms for turning down other overtures meant to diminish concerns about its nuclear agenda.

Haitians confront new threat: deadly spring rains

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Survivors of Haiti's catastrophic earthquake have had one saving grace: There's been no significant rain since the disaster. But that won't last.

The rainy season in Haiti is deadly even in a good year. Now, in a devastated capital city, the early spring rains threaten to cause landslides and bring about health problems in the makeshift camps where more than 500,000 people are living.

Rain is already falling in some parts of the country, but Haiti's shattered capital, where most of the quake damage occurred, has been spared so far—a rarity for this time of year, when afternoon showers are common. Steady rains could come as soon as the end of the month, and hurricane season begins in June.

AP

Two women pray outside the National Cathedral in Port-au-Prince, Monday, Feb. 8, 2010. Thousands were killed and many displaced after Haiti's Jan. 12 powerful earthquake.

Workers are racing to move victims outside of flood plains and into tents. They are also trying to clear tons of debris from ravines, canals and riverbeds, so rain does not turn the survivors' encampments into breeding grounds for disease.

"There will be health concerns," said engineer Mario Nicoleau of the U.S. Agency for International Development's office in Haiti. "The risks will be enormous, and it is difficult to contemplate the unforeseen consequences."

Haiti's government said it needs more money or tents if people are to be moved.

"We are going to have a big problem when the rainy season starts," said Interior Minister Paul Antoine Bien-Aime. "We don't have $60 million to buy 100,000 tents."

Haitians are fearful. Jeanne Marceus, 40, is camped out with hundreds of others under plastic tarps just feet from the Bois de Chene River. On one side, dozens of houses lie flattened from the quake. On the other, a dozen dwellings that slid off the mountain during 2008 rains are piled in a mound.

"Every day we look at the sky for clouds," she said. "My house is gone, and now I'm wondering whether I will be swallowed by the river."

Mexico arrests 2 reputed leaders of Tijuana gang

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP)—Mexican federal police arrested two suspected gang leaders Monday, delivering another big blow to a brutal drug cartel that terrorized the border city of Tijuana for several years.

The capture of Raydel Lopez Uriarte and Manuel Garcia Simental apparently wipes out the existing leadership of the cartel headed by Teodoro Garcia Simental, who was captured last month. Teodoro and Manuel Garcia are brothers.

Lopez, known as "El Muletas," and Garcia, known as "El Chiquilin," were arrested Monday in La Paz, a city in the southern end of the Baja California peninsula, said Amy Roderick, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Mexico's Public Security Department confirmed the arrests in a brief statement, describing Manual Garcia as the gang's leader after his brother's arrest and Lopez as the current second-in-command. It said the arrests were the result of leads starting with the capture of Teodoro Garcia in La Paz on Jan. 12, but offered no further details on the operations.

Roderick said there were no U.S. indictments pending against the suspects.

World's tallest tower closed a month after opening

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—The world's tallest skyscraper has unexpectedly closed to the public a month after its lavish opening, disappointing tourists headed for the observation deck and casting doubt over plans to welcome its first permanent occupants in the coming weeks.

Electrical problems are at least partly to blame for the closure of the Burj Khalifa's viewing platform—the only part of the half-mile high tower open yet. But a lack of information from the spire's owner left it unclear whether the rest of the largely empty building—including dozens of elevators meant to whisk visitors to the tower's more than 160 floors—was affected by the shutdown.

The indefinite closure, which began Sunday, comes as Dubai struggles to revive its international image as a cutting-edge Arab metropolis amid nagging questions about its financial health.

The Persian Gulf city-state had hoped the 2,717-foot (828-meter) Burj Khalifa would be a major tourist draw. Dubai has promoted itself by wowing visitors with over-the-top attractions such as the Burj, which juts like a silvery needle out of the desert and can be seen from miles around.

WORLD BRIEFS

Tel Aviv "savior" accused of enslaving women

JERUSALEM (AP)—The women tattooed his name and portrait on their bodies and gave their children his name—Savior. They spoon-fed the bearded, one-time healer as if he were royalty, brushed his shoulder-length white locks, sent him text messages when they were ovulating and slept with him at his bidding. They turned over wages and welfare payments to him and lived in cramped, rundown Tel Aviv apartments with the children they bore him. According to police, he fathered some of his own daughters' children. The man, 60-year-old Goel Ratzon—whose first name is Hebrew for "Savior"—is now sitting in a Tel Aviv jail, suspected by police of enslaving a cult-like harem of at least 17 women and 37 children. Ratzon, who's lived this way for two decades, denies any wrongdoing, his lawyer says.

Top Canadian military official charged with murder

TORONTO (AP)—The commander of Canada's largest Air Force base, who once flew dignitaries around the country, has been charged with first-degree murder in the deaths of two women. Ontario Provincial Police Det. Insp. Chris Nicholas said Monday that Col. Russell Williams, 46, was arrested Sunday in Ottawa. He was also charged in the sexual assaults of two other women. The charges left Canada's military in a state of shock. Williams, a 23-year military veteran, was appointed as the base commander of Canadian Forces Base Trenton in Trenton, Ontario last July. Trenton is Canada's busiest Air Force base and is providing logistical support for Canada's missions in Haiti and Afghanistan.

West Bank to hold municipal elections July 17

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' government decided Monday to hold municipal elections in the West Bank in July, the first voting since Abbas' Fatah movement was trounced by the militant Islamic Hamas in national polls four years ago. Abbas' rivals in Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip, signaled they will not participate in the July 17 election, virtually guaranteeing that Fatah will reclaim key cities where Hamas won in the last round of local elections five years ago. But a Hamas boycott would also likely exclude Gaza from the voting and diminish the potential of the election to compare the present strengths of the bitter rivals. Presidential and legislative elections were to have taken place in January, but are on hold because of a deepening Palestinian split. Hamas seized Gaza in 2007, expelling Fatah forces and leaving Abbas with only the West Bank. Repeated attempts at reconciliation have failed.

Campus Life

Charter schools becoming less racially diverse, study finds

WASHINGTON—Seven out of 10 black charter school students are on campuses with extremely few white students, according to a new study of enrollment trends that shows the independent public schools are less racially diverse than their traditional counterparts.

The findings from the Civil Rights Project at UCLA, which are being released Thursday, reflect the proliferation of charter schools in the District of Columbia and other major cities with struggling school systems and high minority populations.

To the authors of the study, the findings point to a civil rights issue: "As the country continues moving steadily toward greater segregation and inequality of education for students of color in schools with lower achievement and graduation rates," the study concludes, "the rapid growth of charter schools has been expanding a sector that is even more segregated than the public schools."

Gary Orfield, a UCLA education professor who oversaw the study, said that racially segregated schools tend to face more problems than integrated schools in teacher retention, graduation rates and other areas. He also said charter schools have not been proven to be better academically than regular public schools — a conclusion some researchers debate.

Charter school proponents say that their movement is giving families options they would otherwise lack.

A recent study is recommending that federal and state governments push for racial diversification of charter schools. AP

"I'm less concerned about the comparison of the racial composition of the charter schools to public schools generally, than I am in looking at whether charter schools are getting the job done in providing a viable, meaningful alternative to the regular public schools," said Brian W. Jones, vice chairman of the D.C. Public Charter School Board.

Nationally, according to 2007-08 federal data that the study cited, black students account for 32 percent of charter school enrollment. That is roughly twice their share of enrollment in regular public schools.

The study also found that 70 percent of black charter students are in schools in which at least 90 percent of the student population is nonwhite, and 43 percent of black charter students are in schools with virtually all-minority enrollment. For black students in regular public schools, the comparable shares were 36 percent (in the high-minority enrollment schools) and 15 percent (in virtually all-minority schools).

The study recommended that federal and state governments push for racial diversification of charter schools.

"We actually are very proud of the fact that charter schools enroll more low-income kids and more kids of color than do other public schools," said Nelson Smith, president and chief executive of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, based in Washington. "We're happy to talk about those demographic issues. We're also happy to talk about how to increase diversity overall in all facets of public education. The real civil rights issue for many of these kids is being trapped in dysfunctional schools." ***((c) 2010, The Washington Post)***

Teach your children wellness: schools are rethinking phys ed

By LENNY BERNSTEIN
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Two months back, tiny Lincoln University attracted worldwide media attention when it threatened to withhold diplomas from overweight students unless they took a special fitness class.

Under its 2005 policy, which the Philadelphia area school rescinded in December after weeks of criticism from activists and the media, students with body mass indexes (BMI) over 30 were required to take a one-credit class called "Fitness for Life" in order to graduate from the historically black college. A person with a BMI of 30 is considered obese under health guidelines.

We'll get back to Lincoln. But the controversy made me curious about the role our schools are playing in our children's fitness and whether they are having any impact in the so far losing effort against the obesity epidemic.

When I went to high school in the early 1970s, phys ed was a requirement: three periods a week, if memory serves, through junior year. Team sports reigned. The athletic kids would park me on the offensive line during flag football and tell me to stay out of the way on the basketball floor. Let's not even bring up Greco-Roman wrestling.

It wasn't fun, and it surely didn't involve much exercise, except when the teachers made us run a mile or try the pommel horse. I didn't learn much about staying fit until I started working out in college.

Now it's different — at least in theory and at least in some schools. With the adoption of new standards in the early 1990s, physical education was to be reoriented toward teaching kids the skills needed to stay fit for a lifetime.

AP
With the adoption of new standards in the early 1990s, physical education was to be reoriented toward teaching kids the skills needed to stay fit for a lifetime.

Across the country, some schools have embraced the idea. Glenelg High in Howard County, Md., for example, has practically turned its gym into a fitness club. "Lifetime Fitness" is now the required course at the school, where students have access to spin bikes, elliptical machines, balance balls, step aerobics, free weights and other equipment. They use heart-rate monitors and pedometers and develop individual exercise plans.

Instead of massive scrums on the football field, during any gym period, some students may play Ultimate Frisbee while others walk the track, according to Jacqueline French, facilitator of physical education for Howard County public schools.

"We've reached the kids who, typically, their parents hated P.E. (because) they weren't very successful," says Ginger Kincaid, a physical education teacher who runs the program. "Those are the kids who are getting something out of it."

Amen.

Loudoun County, Va., won a $1.4 million grant in July to undertake a similar conversion of its schools over the next three years, says Sheila Jones, the school system's supervisor of health and physical education.

So everything is on track, right? Not really. It's too soon for any good research to determine whether the new orientation has had an impact. Many schools, lacking the money and expertise to retool, have no such equipment. Others have responded to No Child Left Behind's mandate to raise student test scores by stealing time from P.E.

The National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) recommends that schools provide at least 150 minutes of exercise per five-day school week at the elementary school level and 225 minutes a week for middle and high school students. But in fact, public elementary schools provide just 85 minutes a week for first-graders and 98 minutes a week for sixth-graders, according to a 2005 report by the National Center for Education Statistics.

"With No Child Left Behind, one of the things that was left behind was physical education," says Stephen Jeffries, NASPE's president and a professor of physical education at Central Washington University.

When the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at Yale University evaluated school P.E. policies in Connecticut, most talked a good game but didn't accomplish much, says Marlene Schwartz, the center's deputy director.

And the obesity epidemic continues unabated.

Which brings us back to Lincoln University. Recognizing the treacherous waters it was stepping into, the school in 2005 adopted a fitness-for-life curriculum, began keeping track of its students' BMIs and resolved that some would have to take the fitness class to earn their diplomas. Testing showed 15 percent of each class, on average, had BMIs over 30, according to James L. DeBoy, chairman of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department.

The first class to approach graduation under the new plan was reminded of the requirement in the fall, and the uproar ensued.

The controversy generated coverage as far away as Russia and Australia. Activists pilloried the school for discriminating against the school's overweight students. Some balked at the requirement.

DeBoy is unapologetic. "Putting our heads in the sand and ignoring it, that's wrong," he says.

Under Lincoln's new plan, faculty still will keep track of students' BMIs but will only be "advising, counseling and recommending" that some enroll in the fitness class. DeBoy says the school is counting on relationships forged between students and teachers over four years to help students make the right choices.

And if they don't? That has yet to be addressed, DeBoy says. The school plans to revisit the issue after it has more data on students' decisions.

Life & Style

Super Bowl is most watched TV show ever

NEW YORK (AP)—The New Orleans Saints' victory over Indianapolis in the Super Bowl was watched by more than 106 million people, surpassing the 1983 finale of "M-A-S-H" to become the most-watched program in U.S. television history, the Nielsen Co. said Monday.

Compelling story lines involving the city of New Orleans and its ongoing recovery from Hurricane Katrina and the attempt at a second Super Bowl ring for Indianapolis quarterback Peyton Manning propelled the viewership. Football ratings have been strong all season.

"It was one of those magical moments that you don't often see in sports," said Sean McManus, president of CBS News and Sports.

Nielsen estimated Monday that 106.5 million people watched Sunday's Super Bowl. The "M-A-S-H" record was 105.97 million.

The viewership estimate obliterated the previous record viewership for a Super Bowl—last year's game between Arizona and Pittsburgh. That game was seen by 98.7 million people, Nielsen said.

The "M-A-S-H" record has proven as durable and meaningful in television as Babe Ruth's record of 714 home runs was in baseball until topped by Hank Aaron. Ultimately, it may be hard to tell which program was really watched by more people. There's a margin for error in such numbers, and Nielsen's Monday estimate was preliminary, and could change with a more thorough look at data due Tuesday.

"It's significant for all of the members of the broadcasting community," said Leslie Moonves, CBS Corp. CEO. "For anyone who wants to write that broadcasting is dead, 106 million people watched this program. You can't find that anywhere else."

AP

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees celebrates with his son Baylen and wife Brittany after winning the NFL Super Bowl XLIV football game against the Indianapolis Colts in Miami, Sunday, Feb. 7, 2010.

Moonves predicted CBS will earn more in advertising revenue than in any other Super Bowl. The good ratings for the game and football in general also set CBS and other football broadcasters up well when selling advertising for next season, he said.

The Nielsen estimate also drew some congratulations from Alan Alda, the star of "M-A-S-H," and the slugger whose record was beaten.

"If the `M-A-S-H' audience was eclipsed, it was probably due in large part to the fact that the whole country is rooting for New Orleans to triumph in every way possible," Alda said. "I am, too, and I couldn't be happier for them. I love that city."

There are more American homes with television sets now (114.9 million) than there were in 1983 (83.3 million). An estimated 77 percent of homes with TVs on were watching "M-A-S-H" in 1983, compared with the audience share of 68 for the Super Bowl.

Nielsen also measures only the United States, and it's possible some World Cup soccer games were seen more worldwide. Accurate measurement of television audiences outside the United States is spotty at best.

Alda also wondered whether the numbers were too close to declare a new champion. He thinks Nielsen didn't take into account large numbers of people watching "M-A-S-H" communally, which is often the case for football games, too.

"Not to say I'm competitive, but in part we are talking about sports," he said. "And I actually AM competitive."

McManus didn't want to jinx it, but the abnormally strong viewership for football this year left him hoping for a record. The NFC and AFC championship games both had their biggest audiences since the 1980s. The growth of high-definition television and its appeal to sports fans has also helped.

A competitive game until the final minutes sealed it. McManus acknowledged some nervousness when Indianapolis jumped out to a 10-0 lead—a Super Bowl rout often makes people turn away from the game—but New Orleans roared back.

The Mid-Atlantic blizzard also helped CBS. After New Orleans, the highest-rated market was snowbound Washington, Nielsen said. More people watched the game from their homes in that area instead of going to parties or bars, and Nielsen does a much better job counting viewers in homes than outside of them.

`Dear John' delivers No. 1 debut with $30.5M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The romantic drama "Dear John" has knocked the sci-fi blockbuster "Avatar" off its No. 1 box-office perch.

"Dear John" debuted with $30.5 million, nudging "Avatar" to second-place with $22.9 million.

"Avatar," which had been No. 1 for seven weekends, raised its revenue records to $639.3 million domestically and $2.2 billion worldwide.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Hollywood.com are:

1. ***"Dear John,"*** Sony Screen Gems, $30,468,614, 2,969 locations, $10,262 average, $30,468,614, one week.

2. ***"Avatar,"*** Fox, $22,850,881, 3,000 locations, $7,617 average, $629,344,204, eight weeks.

3. ***"From Paris With Love,"*** Lionsgate, $8,158,860, 2,722 locations, $2,997 average, $8,158,860, one week.

4. ***"Edge of Darkness,"*** Warner Bros., $6,855,371, 3,066 locations, $2,236 average, $28,947,851, two weeks.

5. ***"The Tooth Fairy,"*** Fox, $6,629,595, 3,218 locations, $2,060 average, $34,462,568, three weeks.

6. ***"When in Rome,"*** Disney, $5,549,129, 2,456 locations, $2,259 average, $20,944,734, two weeks.

7. ***"The Book of Eli,"*** Warner Bros., $4,717,335, 2,820 locations, $1,673 average, $82,045,140, four weeks.

8. ***"Crazy Heart,"*** Fox Searchlight , $3,567,671, 819 locations, $4,356 average, $11,105,401, eight weeks.

9. ***"Legion,"*** Sony Screen Gems, $3,453,651, 2,339 locations, $1,477 average, $34,731,934, three weeks.

10. ***"Sherlock Holmes,"*** Warner Bros., $2,535,174, 1,805 locations, $1,405 average, $201,484,470, seven weeks.

11. ***"The Blind Side,"*** Warner Bros., $2,503,224, 1,740 locations, $1,439 average, $241,529,593, 12 weeks.

12. ***"Up in the Air,"*** Paramount, $2,283,113, 1,547 locations, $1,476 average, $76,614,306, 10 weeks.

13. ***"The Lovely Bones,"*** Paramount, $2,262,399, 2,330 locations, $971 average, $41,485,830, nine weeks.

14. ***"Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel,"*** Fox, $2,125,922, 1,965 locations, $1,082 average, $212,156,137, seven weeks.

15. ***"It's Complicated,"*** Universal, $2,080,395, 1,671 locations, $1,245 average, $107,534,385, seven weeks.

16. ***"The Spy Next Door,"*** Lionsgate, $918,846, 1,007 locations, $912 average, $22,858,012, four weeks.

17. ***"An Education,"*** Sony Pictures Classics, $763,234, 761 locations, $1,003 average, $9,622,621, 18 weeks.

18. ***"A Single Man,"*** Weinstein Co., $627,124, 353 locations, $1,777 average, $6,178,651, nine weeks.

19. ***"Extraordinary Measures,"*** CBS Films, $521,805, 1,153 locations, $453 average, $11,854,694, three weeks.

20. ***"Precious: Based on the Novel `Push' By Sapphire,"*** Lionsgate, $474,156, 669 locations, $709 average, $46,057,209, 14 weeks.

Lawyer: Pitt and Jolie sue over split claim

LONDON (AP)—Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie have begun legal action against a British tabloid that reported the celebrity couple was going to split, a lawyer acting on their behalf confirmed Monday.

Keith Schillings, of London-based Schillings lawyers, said in a statement that the couple had begun legal proceedings against the News of The World, a Sunday tabloid and Britain's highest selling newspaper.

He said the newspaper had made "false and intrusive allegations" when it reported Jan. 24 that Pitt and Jolie had agreed to separate, to divide assets worth 205 million pounds ($320 million) and had made arrangements regarding the custody of their six children.

Lawyers for the couple lodged a claim at London's High Court on Monday to begin a legal case against the newspaper, Schillings said.

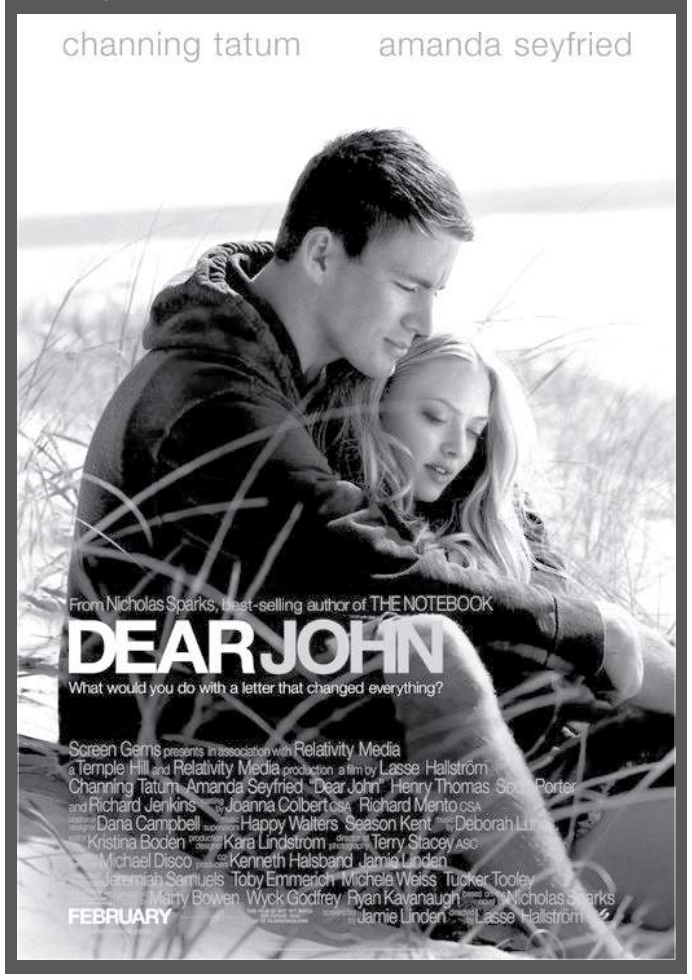
AP

In this May 20, 2009 file photo, Brad Pitt, right, and Angelina Jolie arrive on the red carpet for the film "Inglourious Basterds", during the 62nd International film festival in Cannes, southern France.

"The News of the World has failed to meet our clients' reasonable demands for a retraction of and apology for these false and intrusive allegations which have now been widely republished by mainstream news outlets. We have advised them to bring proceedings which they have now done," Schillings said.

He also said Sorrell Trope, a high profile divorce lawyer in Los Angeles, had denied claims she had been in contact with the couple, as had been reported.

"I have had no contact from ... Angelina Jolie and/or Brad Pitt," Trope wrote, according to a letter sent to the couple's lawyers and partially quoted in Schillings' statement. "I have never met ... your clients or had any involvement with either of them. The forgoing is true with respect to all other members of this firm."


channing tatum
amanda seyfried
From Nicholas Sparks, best-selling author of THE NOTEBOOK
DEAR JOHN
What would you do with a letter that changed everything?
Screen Gems presents in association with Relativity Media
FEBRUARY

In Celebration of His New Life

Fidel Atalig Mendiola

Known as Tan De' or Uncle De'

March 25, 1930 – February 03, 2010
of Rota, was called to home by our Heavenly Father at the age of 79

In His New Life, he now joins his:

Son: Alfred S. Mendiola
Daughter: Beata S. Mendiola
Grandson: Alfred James Mendiola
Parents: Thomas Camacho Mendiola
Lucia Atalig Mendiola
Mother in law: Beata Duenas Mendiola
Brother in law: Edward M. Garcia
Sister in law: Andrea M. Mendiola

Numerous Uncles, Aunts, Cousins, Nephews & Nieces

He will be greatly missed and remembered in the hearts of his:

Wife: **Fermina Sasakura Mendiola**

Children: †***Alfred S. Mendiola*** (**Joseph**/Lynn Atalig & Children; **Alvilynn** M./Joseph Kumagai & Children; **Lori M.**/Ronnie M. Calvo & Children)

Villia M. & Victor B. Hocog (**Viola**/Antonio Atalig, Jr. & Children, **Victor Val** & Daughter, Verilynn & Children; & **Valeen**)

†***Beata S. Mendiola***

Elizabeth S. Mendiola & Paterno S. Hocog (**Anginette**/John M. Bamba & Children; **Andrei**/Elenor & Daughter, **Carrie**/Vito Jr. Ulloa; **Paterno Joe**; **Patty Beth** & **Paterno, Jr.**)

Francisco S. Mendiola & Judy Y. (**Shaun Thomas** & **Eric**/Jen)

Patricia S. Mendiola (**Fidel S. Mendiola, III**)

Fidel S. Mendiola, Jr. & Abelina T. (**Deron** & **Sean Peter**)

Celeste Mendiola-Flores (**Chanelle, Chadd, Chanoa** & **Chantasia**)

Lucas C. Mendiola & Rosalyn M. (**Dexter** & **Florie**)

Ricardo H. Mendiola & Terri (**James/Michealyn** & Son; **Jason/Jenni** & Children)

Jovita M. & Thomas J. Unsiog (**Tamyeejo**/Tyle White & Children; **Tawnee**; Tawnya/Jeremy Longfellow; **Tara; Teesha** & **Tiffani**)

Sisters/Brothers/In-Laws:
Lorenza M. Garcia & Children
Ana O. Mendiola & Children
Elizabeth M. Sasakura & Children
Alejo A. & Flor Mendiola & Children
Diego D. & Angie P. Mendiola & Children
Thomas D. & Kathy S. Mendiola & Children
Daniel D. & Gina M. Sasakura & Children

Father-In-Law: **Francisco Toshio Sasakura**
Reared Mother: **Rosa Mendiola Atalig** & Children
Living Uncle: **Martino Mendiola Atalig** & Children

He will also be greatly missed and remembered by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Nightly Mass is being offered at 7:00 p.m. followed by Nightly Rosary at 7:30 p.m. at San Isidro Church, Sinapalo, Rota. Daily Mass is also being offered at San Francisco de Borja Church at 6:00 a.m.

On Saturday, February 13, 2010 at 7:30 a.m., the body will be escorted from Rota Health Center's Morgue to San Francisco de Borja Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 12:00 p.m. Burial will follow at San Jose Cemetery, Rota.

Thank You and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

From the Family

Michael Jackson's doctor pleads not guilty

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's doctor pleaded not guilty Monday to involuntary manslaughter in the death of the pop star at a brief hearing that had all the trappings of another sensational celebrity courtroom drama.

Dr. Conrad Murray appeared in court in a gray suit as Jackson's father Joe, mother Katherine, and siblings LaToya, Jermaine, Tito, Jackie and Randy watched from courtroom seats behind prosecutors.

Neither Murray nor the Jacksons showed much emotion as Murray entered his plea through his attorney Ed Chernoff.

"We need justice," Joe Jackson said outside court before leaving with family members in a fleet of Cadillac Escalades.

Earlier, several people shouted "murderer" as Murray walked past a crowd of hundreds of reporters and Jackson fans on his way to a courthouse adjacent to Los Angeles International Airport.

Murray, 56, a Houston cardiologist who was with Jackson when he died June 25, entered his plea just hours after he was charged.

AP

Conrad Murray, Michael Jackson's doctor, left, looks on as his attorney Ed Chernoff speaks during his arraignment at the Los Angeles Superior Court on charges of involuntary manslaughter in the singer's death in Los Angeles on Monday, Feb. 8, 2010.

Superior Court Judge Keith L. Schwartz set bail at $75,000, three times more than the amount most people face after being charged with involuntary manslaughter.

Prosecutors had been seeking $300,000 bail for Murray, who was taken into custody by deputies but not handcuffed in public. He was expected to be released later in the day.

The judge told Murray he could travel throughout the United States after posting bail but must surrender his passport and not leave the country.

It appeared authorities were taking extra steps to ensure the arraignment did not become a media circus.

Lines were formed to gain admission to the courtroom, and the Jackson family was escorted in separately and seated before anyone else arrived.

Despite the precautions, the upcoming proceedings promise to be the focus of widespread attention.

Jackson, 50, hired Murray in May to be his personal physician as he prepared for a strenuous series of comeback performances.

Officials said the singer died in Los Angeles after Murray administered the powerful general anesthetic propofol and two other sedatives to get the chronic insomniac to sleep.

Murray is accused of the single felony count in a five-page complaint that said he "did unlawfully, and without malice, kill Michael Joseph Jackson" by acting "without due caution and circumspection."

The complaint contains no details on Jackson's death, but authorities have said the singer died after Murray administered the anesthetic and other drugs. Murray has said he did nothing that should have caused Jackson to die.

If convicted, the doctor could face up to four years in prison.

"We'll make bail, we'll plead not guilty and we'll fight like hell," Chernoff said before the charge was filed.

Known as "milk of amnesia," propofol is only supposed to be administered by an anesthesia professional in a medical setting because it depresses breathing and heart rate while lowering blood pressure.

The American Society of Anesthesiologists warned in 2004 that a doctor using propofol should have education and training to manage anesthesia complications, be physically present throughout sedation and monitor patients "without interruption" for signs of trouble. Rescue equipment "must be immediately available," it said.

Los Angeles investigators were methodical in building a case against Murray, wary of repeating missteps that have plagued some other high-profile celebrity cases, most notably against O.J. Simpson and actor Robert Blake, both of whom were acquitted of murder.

After reviewing toxicology findings, the coroner ruled Jackson's death a homicide caused by acute intoxication of propofol, with other sedatives a contributing factor.

Murray appears to have obtained the drug legally and its use is not in itself a crime. To show the doctor was negligent in his care, detectives spoke to more than 10 medical experts to see if his behavior fell outside the bounds of reasonable medical practice.

Miley Cyrus, other celebs auction items for Haiti

AP

In this Jan. 31, 2010 file photo, Miley Cyrus wears a dress by Herve Leger as she arrives at the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

NEW YORK (AP)—Miley Cyrus has organized an online auction to benefit the relief effort in Haiti, and Britney Spears, Hugh Jackman, Ellen DeGeneres, Julianne Moore, Whoopi Goldberg, Demi Lovato and others will donate items and experiences.

Cyrus is donating several items, including the Herve Leger dress she wore to the 2010 Grammy Awards. Fans can also bid on Spears' 2008 MTV Video Music Awards dress, a set visit to Jackman's new film, Lovato's tour wardrobe and other items.

The auction runs from 7 p.m. PST on Monday through 7 p.m. PST on Feb. 18. All proceeds go to the American Red Cross.

Actor Gary Coleman pleads guilty in Utah court

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Former child television star Gary Coleman pleaded guilty Monday to a misdemeanor criminal mischief charge related to a domestic violence incident last April.

In a deal with the prosecutor, Coleman entered the plea in Santaquin Justice Court on his 42nd birthday.

Court clerk Jane Swan says the original charge of domestic violence assault was dropped. No details of the April 18 incident are detailed in court documents, but defense attorney Randy Kester told The Associated Press that Coleman and his wife, Shannon Price, had an argument which got out of hand.

"No one was injured and no ambulances were called," Kester said by phone. "It was just a disagreement."

Judge Sharla Williams sentenced Coleman to 31 1/2 days in jail. The "Diff'rent Strokes" star will serve the time only if he fails to complete a domestic violence course and pay a $595 fine.

"I think it's an exceptionally fair resolution," Coleman's attorney, Randy Kester, told the AP by phone. "He's been under an extreme amount of stress."

Kester said Coleman has suffered a string of health problems—dialysis for an ongoing kidney condition and heart surgery that was complicated by pneumonia last fall—and has struggled to find work.

Coleman was arrested Jan. 24 at home on a warrant for failing to appear in court. He spent a night in jail before a fan paid his $1,725 bail. Kester said Coleman missed the court appearance because he was in the hospital.

Coleman moved to Santaquin, about 65 miles south of Salt Lake City, in 2005, around the time he starred in "Church Ball," a comedy based on basketball leagues formed by members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He met Price on the movie set.

In December 2008, Coleman pleaded no contest to a disorderly conduct charge stemming from an incident in a bowling alley parking lot three months earlier and was ordered to pay a $100 fine.

A personal injury lawsuit against Coleman and Price, 24, related to the same incident has been settled. Colt Rushton accused Coleman of hitting him with his truck after an altercation over photos.

"Diff'rent Strokes" aired in 1978-86. Coleman played Arnold Jackson, best known for the line, "Whatchu talkin' 'bout, Willis?"

Mom keeps tabs on daughter through her bank statements

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am 20 and live most of the year on my college campus. I'm on a full scholarship, so my parents are not paying my tuition. Most of my mail—bank statements, etc.—still goes to my parents' house since I don't have a permanent address.

For the last two years, my mother has opened my bank statement and read the entire thing. She then calls me and goes through all of my card charges and checks, and asks me to explain where I was and what I bought.

I have tried telling her that I am an adult and that what I buy is my business, but she continues to do this every month. When I explained that I am capable of managing my own finances, she told me she was just worried about me and that "a mother ALWAYS has the right to worry about her only child."

I understand she will always be concerned about my well-being, financial and otherwise, but this is taking it too far. How can I explain to her that it's not OK to invade my privacy? I know she means well, and I don't want to hurt her feelings, but it's really becoming a hassle.

COLLEGE CO-ED IN WILLIAMSBURG, VA.

DEAR COLLEGE CO-ED: A mother may always have the right to worry, but she does not always have the right to snoop. Because you have already tried explaining to her that you feel what she's doing is an invasion of privacy and the message isn't getting through, it's time for you to open a post office box near the campus and have your mail sent there. It can be forwarded to you if you go home for the summers.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: After my mother died two years ago, my sisters and I divided up her household items, parceling out equally objects of material and sentimental value. One item, which went to my younger sister, "Beth," was a brightly colored handmade Native American rug our parents bought in the 1950s in Arizona. It had been displayed prominently for decades on a wall in the house where we three children grew up.

I visited Beth recently and was shocked to see that she had taken the rug out of storage and was using it as a floor rug in her family room. I shuddered to think of the damage that a daily trample by her three little kids, she and her husband and a sadly incontinent dog will do to this family treasure. I politely asked her to reconsider and find somewhere else to display it. If she couldn't, I offered to trade it for something of her choice from my parcel of the family possessions.

Beth took offense, reminding me that it is, after all, a rug, and that it now belongs to her. Emphasizing that her small house has limited wall space, she implied that I was trying to get the rug for myself. She feels my desire to see it displayed is no more valid than hers to see it used. Am I wrong in thinking she should not trash this heirloom?

SENTIMENTAL IN HARTFORD, CONN.

DEAR SENTIMENTAL: The rug belongs to your sister, to do with as she pleases. HOWEVER, her Native American rug purchased in the 1950s could be extremely valuable. Has your sister had it appraised? If not, I am urging you to tell her to have it done, because it could pay for a year or two of one of her children's college education.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: "Katy" and I are in a loving relationship but have an ongoing argument in our home. Katy always sets the alarm clock for an hour before it's time to get up—then hits the "snooze" button five times before actually dragging herself out of bed (which is usually even later).

Because I am a light sleeper, I'm forced to listen to the alarm clock and end up waking up earlier than I'd like. Can you please offer a solution?

SLEEPLESS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR SLEEPLESS: Earplugs for you. A cold foot on the behind for Katy.

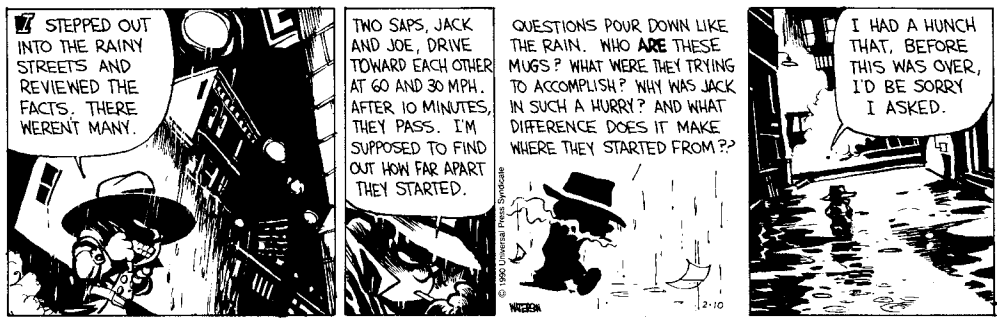
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I STEPPED OUT INTO THE RAINY STREETS AND REVIEWED THE FACTS. THERE WERENT MANY.
TWO SAPS, JACK AND JOE, DRIVE TOWARD EACH OTHER AT 60 AND 30 MPH. AFTER 10 MINUTES, THEY PASS. I'M SUPPOSED TO FIND OUT HOW FAR APART THEY STARTED.
QUESTIONS POUR DOWN LIKE THE RAIN. WHO ARE THESE MUGS? WHAT WERE THEY TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH? WHY WAS JACK IN SUCH A HURRY? AND WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE WHERE THEY STARTED FROM??
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
I HAD A HUNCH THAT, BEFORE THIS WAS OVER, I'D BE SORRY I ASKED.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN'T LIKE THIS SUIT!
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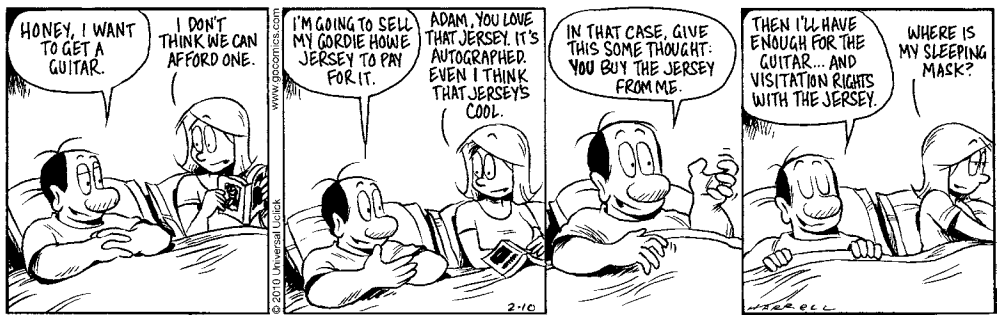
www.garfield.com
JIM DAVIS 2-10
IS THIS A GENETIC THING?
NO, IT'S SEERSUCKER
TIDDY BOOM
Distributed by Universal Uclick

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HONEY, I WANT TO GET A GUITAR.
I DON'T THINK WE CAN AFFORD ONE.
I'M GOING TO SELL MY GORDIE HOWE JERSEY TO PAY FOR IT.
ADAM, YOU LOVE THAT JERSEY. IT'S AUTOGRAPHED. EVEN I THINK THAT JERSEY'S COOL.
IN THAT CASE, GIVE THIS SOME THOUGHT: YOU BUY THE JERSEY FROM ME.
THEN I'LL HAVE ENOUGH FOR THE GUITAR... AND VISITATION RIGHTS WITH THE JERSEY.
WHERE IS MY SLEEPING MASK?
© 2010 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com
2-10

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING?
"WHEEL OF FORTUNE".
@#%, PAT! I ASKED FOR AN "A"! NOT A #@$% "E"!
IRRITABLE-VOWEL SYNDROME.
© 2010 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

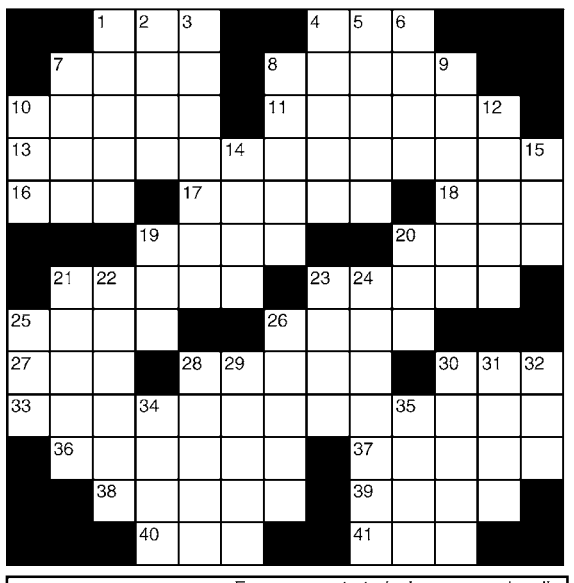
ACROSS
1 Puncturing tool
4 Shriver of tennis
7 Dog bane
8 December holidays
10 Water nymph
11 Gets out of bed
13 Scattered here and there
16 X rating?
17 Eco-community
18 Hearty brew
19 Car
20 Census statistics
21 Pizzeria need
23 Infants
25 Boat's floor
26 Employer
27 Scot's denial
28 Boy Scouts' unit
30 Bikini half
33 Covering a wide range
36 Muss
37 Mistreatment
38 Tire pattern
39 Unrivaled
40 Hogs' home
41 Explosive letters

DOWN
1 Extraterrestrial
2 Have on
3 Spotted beetle
4 Adar celebration
5 Wonderland visitor
6 Work well together
7 No. 1 pick, for short
8 Google competitor
9 Refuse matter
10 Trawler need
12 Corporate department
14 Accompanying
15 "Indeed"
19 Diving bird
20 Tummy muscles
21 Handed out hands
22 Endangered wildcat
23 Italy's shape
24 Paving material
25 "CSI" evidence
26 Filled with ennui
28 Family-room appliance
29 Pass along
30 Tactless
31 American Beauty, e.g.
32 Chowed down
34 What we share
35 Black, in verse

Solution time: 21 mins.

I	R	K	S	■	O	W	N	■	R	A	P	T
C	E	N	T	■	C	H	I	■	O	G	R	E
O	D	O	R	■	C	O	X	S	W	A	I	N
N	O	X	I	O	U	S	■	T	E	R	M	S
■	■	■	F	I	R	■	S	Y	N	■	■	■
G	A	V	E	L	■	R	O	X	A	N	N	E
O	D	E	■	■	A	N	Y	■	■	O	A	R
T	O	X	E	M	I	A	■	L	U	N	G	E
■	■	■	R	I	D	■	P	E	N	■	■	■
A	R	E	A	S	■	F	O	X	T	R	O	T
B	O	X	S	C	O	R	E	■	R	A	T	A
E	D	I	E	■	H	A	S	■	U	N	T	O
L	E	T	S	■	S	T	Y	■	E	G	O	S

Yesterday's answer 2-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Elizabeth Banks, 36; Laura Dern, 43; George Stephanopoulos, 49; Greg Norman, 55

Happy Birthday: You will have to make some serious decisions regarding the people and organizations with whom you get involved this year. It's important that you align yourself with industrious groups that have a message and the means to bring about necessary reforms. Your contributions will help you get ahead both personally and professionally. Change is good and can help you stabilize your future. Your numbers are 3, 10, 12, 28, 34, 40, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Put your skills to the test and you will excel. Getting all worked up over what others say or do will be a waste of time and could hold you back or affect your status. Stay calm and speak with authority. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Push for what you want. Don't count on others to know the ins and outs of what you are doing or to give you the benefit of a doubt. You have to take a lead position or someone who opposes you will. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take the initiative to raise issues that have been bothering you. Taking on too much or being pressured to do so will leave you in a compromising position. Love is in the stars and should be on your agenda. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll tend to be emotional, sensitive and uncertain regarding your personal relationships. An opportunity to try something new will lead to a better position or a change in the way you do your job. Deal with problems swiftly. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't mess with rules and regulations or you will have to face a critical individual who can affect your position. Spending on something you don't need will lead you to deception. Focus on work and making more cash. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take one step at a time and do your best to stay in control. Sudden, unexpected changes will come your way, so be ready to deal with them immediately. Networking will ensure you have other opportunities should a problem develop with someone for whom you are working. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Do what you say without hesitation or you may be criticized. You may not be able to make all the changes necessary at home but you can start to talk about your plans. A chance to make some creative, personal changes is apparent. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't let anyone get the better of you by making you angry. A practical and rational approach will enable you to handle the situation with dignity and grace. It's diplomacy that will impress others. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Your experience will help you out now. Someone you love and trust will be able to help you see things from a better perspective. A solution can be found as long as you don't overreact or overindulge. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Refuse to let anyone pressure you into doing something you don't feel right about. Come up with alternative ideas that will allow you to spread around the responsibilities. If you delegate, you will remain in control. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): If you need help, ask for it. A new plan will help you make decisions about your future that can lead to higher income and a better sense of what you are capable of doing. Separate yourself from negative people. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Take control and offer solutions. Be upfront about what it will cost to implement your plans. Take the attitude that less is more and you will even win over your toughest critic. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have a vivid imagination and can surprise everyone with your wit, knowledge and flexibility. You are reliable, responsible and caring.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		1	9	6	2			
			1			5		
4		9					6	
2	9				6			3
	8						7	
7	6	5						1
3	5		2				9	
9				3	5	4		
			6	9				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	6	9	2	4	1	7	8	5
4	2	7	6	5	8	1	9	3
1	5	8	7	3	9	6	4	2
7	3	1	4	6	2	9	5	8
8	4	5	9	7	3	2	6	1
6	9	2	1	8	5	4	3	7
2	8	6	5	1	4	3	7	9
5	1	4	3	9	7	8	2	6
9	7	3	8	2	6	5	1	4

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/09

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

INSURANCE DEDUCTIBLE **Solution: 7 letters**

C	R	P	S	T	N	E	M	E	R	C	N	I	P	B
H	E	A	L	T	H	O	L	D	E	R	I	F	R	U
A	V	T	M	R	A	D	V	A	N	C	E	D	D	S
R	O	I	H	O	O	R	I	S	K	E	E	B	A	I
G	C	E	R	G	U	N	T	D	S	N	I	T	M	N
E	E	N	I	T	I	N	I	E	I	L	C	N	A	E
S	R	T	A	A	M	A	T	M	L	A	O	I	G	S
A	U	L	P	S	P	O	R	A	R	I	S	A	E	S
V	F	P	E	K	T	E	C	T	T	T	K	T	L	M
I	A	R	R	A	T	I	B	R	S	C	S	E	I	A
N	B	A	L	E	D	U	O	O	A	E	V	R	M	H
G	S	T	D	E	S	P	C	P	T	E	S	M	I	E
S	O	E	M	O	N	E	Y	P	L	A	N	S	T	A
D	R	A	W	R	O	F	T	U	P	E	R	I	O	D
P	B	E	N	E	F	I	T	S	T	R	A	V	E	L

© 2010 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 2/10

Absorb, Advance, Ahead, Amount, Benefits, Bill, Business, Charges, Costs, Damage, Fees, Fire, Flat, Forward, Health, Holder, Increments, Level, Limit, Losses, Medical, Minor, Money, Package, Paid, Patient, Period, Plan, Portion, Predetermined, Preset, Rate, Recover, Repair, Risk, Savings, Start, Straight, Subtract, Support, Task, Terms, Test, Total, Travel

Yesterday's Answer: Bassist

Treasury B can be ordered by sending check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

BABY BLOCK

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Find today's solution in this section

CAREFREE LAWN CLEANING SERVICE 285-6640

HELP WANTED
- Looking for Sexy Dancer
  Female
- DJ (Disc Jockey)
- Waitress

IR or Green Card holder
Please apply by email to Joon Park at crossroad44@yahoo.co.kr or call 235-2151/2331123

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
Call 235-NEWS

FOR LEASE

Lower N.H. barrack and property for long term lease. As Lito house and property for long term lease. If interested please call at 287-7676 for more information.

WHATZIT Solution:
New kid on the block

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $25.00
Call: 233-9889 or 483-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent. For $230.00 / month Koblerville, please call 288-0728

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Oceanview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

tii · Coca-Cola · Foremost · Subway eat fresh. · Glimpses

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS
JOIN OUR TEAM!!!

Position: Accountant
- Prepares financial statement reports & cost analysis
- Reconciles bank statements
- Prepares tax reports & payroll processing
- Directs the maintenance of general and subsidiary ledgers, accounts receivables, accounts payables, revenue distribution, depreciation, cost, property and operating expenses and insurance records.
- Prepares budgets, control inventories and other related accounting reports.

Requirements:
- At least four (4) years experience in accountancy
- Graduate with Accounting degree from accredited institution preferred
- Excellent Computer literacy is a MUST
- Strong communication skills (fluent English speaking & writing)

Please submit resume with recent photo to:
Human Resources Department
2/F Transpac Business Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai,
Saipan MP 96950
Monday to Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm.

OUR GROUP IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date:	January 6, 2010	Closing Date:	Until Filled		
JVA NO.	Position Title	Positions	Salary	Contract	Location
10-006	Deputy Director for Water & Wastewater	One (1)	Negotiable; Un-graded	Two-year	Water Wastewater, Saipan
Opening Date:	**February 9, 2010**	**Closing Date:**	**Until Filled**		
JVA NO.	**Position Title**	**Positions**	**Salary**	**Contract**	**Location**
10-015	Technical Manager for Oil (TMO)	One (1)	$79,616 - $88,462; Un-graded	Two-year	Administration, Saipan

For more information about the position(s) being advertised, please stop by the Human Resources Office on the third floor of the Joeten Dandan Building.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220. U.S.A. Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 • Fax (670) 235-5131

FOR HIRE TO SAIPAN, GUAM OR CALIFORNIA
- PHYSICAL THERAPIST
- OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST
- SPEECH THERAPIST

Please submit your resume at
MVN Marianas Visiting Nurses
"HOME HEATLHCARE SERVICES"
"MEDICARE/MEDICAID CERTIFIED"
Gualo Rai , Middle Road. For more information call 323-6877

Maribeth Famy Babauta
P.O. Box 500048
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 288-0236

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF MARIBETH FAMY BABAUTA AS GUARDIAN OF THE ESTATE OF JANEE MARIE BABAUTA Minor Child, By: MARIBETH FAMY BABAUTA, Petitioner.	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0065 NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor child by Maribeth Famy Babauta, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo on the 3rd day of March, 2010 at 9:00 A.M. or as soon as thereafter.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Petitioner
GRACE Y. PATIGAYON

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

GRACE Y. PATIGAYON, Plaintiff, v. **GLENN THOMAS WELSH,** Respondent.	FCD-DI Civil Action No. 10-0061 **ORDER TO APPEAR OR PLEAD (7 CMC § 1301)**

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT:
GLENN THOMAS WELSH

PURSUANT TO 7 CMC § 1301, YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to make your appearance or file any answer you wish to make to the Petition filed with the Commonwealth Superior Court, within 30 days from the service date. You are instructed to make your appearance before the Clerk of Courts or mail a copy of your answer to the Petition to the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing. You may obtain a copy of the Petition by contacting Petitioner's counsel of record.

If you choose to file an answer, your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the Court by messenger or mail.

If you fail to make your appearance or file an answer in accordance with this Order To Appear or Plead, a default judgment will be entered against you for the relief of the Complaint

A copy of this Order is to be published at a newspaper of general circulation, once a week for two consecutive weeks. In addition, a copy of this Order shall be posted in two (2) conspicuous places for a period of not less than two weeks.

SO ORDERED.

/s/ KENNETH L. GOVENDO
Associate Judge

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Petitioner
GRACE Y. PATIGAYON

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

GRACE Y. PATIGAYON, Plaintiff, v. **ALDEN N. DE GUZMAN,** Respondent	FCD-DI Civil Action No. 10-0062 **ORDER TO APPEAR OR PLEAD (7 CMC § 1301)**

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT: **ALDEN N. DE GUZMAN**

PURSUANT TO 7 CMC § 1301, YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to make your appearance or file any answer you wish to make to the Petition filed with the Commonwealth Superior Court, within 30 days from the service date. You are instructed to make your appearance before the Clerk of Courts or mail a copy of your answer to the Petition to the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing. You may obtain a copy of the Petition by contacting Petitioner's counsel of record.

If you choose to file an answer, your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the Court by messenger or mail.

If you fail to make your appearance or file an answer in accordance with this Order To Appear or Plead, a default judgment will be entered against you for the relief of the Petition.

A copy of this Order is to be published at a newspaper of general circulation, once a week for two consecutive weeks. In addition, a copy of this Order shall be posted in two (2) conspicuous places for a period of not less than two weeks.

SO ORDERED.

/s/ KENNETH L. GOVENDO
Associate Judge

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Petitioner
JESUSANA AGUATIS ESPARAGOZA a.k.a
JESUSANA ESPARAGOZA MATAGOLAI

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JESUSANA AGUATIS ESPARAGOZA a.k.a JESUSANA ESPARAGOZA MATAGOLAI, Petitioner, v. JOELY AREVALO ESMERALDA, Respondent.	FCD-DI Civil Action No. 10-0063 ORDER TO APPEAR **OR PLEAD (7 CMC § 1301)**

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT:
JOELY AREVALO ESMERALDA

PURSUANT TO 7 CMC § 1301, YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to make your appearance or file any answer you wish to make to the Petition filed with the Commonwealth Superior Court, within 30 days from the service date. You are instructed to make your appearance before the Clerk of Courts or mail a copy of your answer to the Petition to the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing. You may obtain a copy of the Petition by contacting Petitioner's counsel of record.

If you choose to file an answer, your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the Court by messenger or mail.

If you fail to make your appearance or file an answer in accordance with this Order To Appear or Plead, a default judgment will be entered against you for the relief of the Petition.

A copy of this Order is to be published at a newspaper of general circulation, once a week for two consecutive weeks. In addition, a copy of this Order shall be posted in two (2) conspicuous places for a period of not less than two weeks.

SO ORDERED.

/s/ KENNETH L. GOVENDO
Associate Judge

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School System (PSS), Human Resources Office shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: **PSS-2009-092** Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **CIP COORDINATOR (Chief Engineer) Re-Announcement I**
Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED** Per Annum Salary: **$50,000.00**
Opening Date: **February 2, 2010** Closing Date: **February 17, 2010**
Location: PSS – **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays

Minimum Requirements:
Graduation from a US accredited college or university with a BA degree in Architecture, Civil Engineering, or related field, plus at least five (5) years experience in construction management, architecture, or related field; CNMI License preferred.

****The complete job description can be obtained at the PSS-Human Resources Office, 3rd Floor-Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill.**

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd FLOOR RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE; (2) TRANSCRIPTS; (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS); (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER; (5) RESUME; AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

COMMONWEALTH ZONING BOARD

Recruitment For Zoning Administrator

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Administrator. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Zoning Administrator manages the Zoning Office, which is responsible for processing permit inquiries and applications, maintaining record and data systems, inspecting and enforcing compliance, interpreting the Saipan Zoning Law with assistance of legal counsel, educating the public, staffing the Zoning Board, coordinating with other agencies, preparing updates to the Saipan Zoning Law and Board Regulations, preparing budgets and tracking expenditures, and preparing reports and grant applications (see Section 310 of the Saipan Zoning Law at www.zoning.gov.mp).

The Saipan Zoning Law of 2007 became effective on February 1, 2008. Since then, the Zoning Office has processed about 6000 inquiries and zoning permits. The Zoning Board is committed to professionally administering the Law; maintaining close contact with elected officials, the public, other agencies and the business community; and adapting the Law to changing circumstances.

The minimum requirements for the position are a baccalaureate degree, but preferably a graduate degree, in planning or a related field such as engineering, architecture, urban planning, environmental science, public administration and five years of progressive experience in land use planning, comprehensive planning or land use administration (CNMI Zoning Code § 7222).

Preferred Competencies: Knowledge of zoning and land use control and planning theory and practice including preparation, administration and enforcement. Knowledge of records management techniques including permit record systems, databases and Geographic Information Systems. Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Internet browsers. Skill in researching printed and Internet documents and ability to quickly compile and analyze information and prepare concise reports. Ability to supervise and motivate others and to cooperatively work in a team setting. Ability to work effectively with Zoning Board members; political, business and community leaders; and with the general public in cross-cultural settings with people with English as a second language. Previous experience administering zoning laws, regulations or ordinances. Ability to balance competing work demands and set priorities. Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing in English. Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends. Ability to drive a stick-shift car and to walk into construction sites and across rough terrain. Work experience in Micronesia, preferably the Northern Mariana Islands, and have working knowledge about laws, government regulations and administrative procedures is an advantage.

The maximum annual salary is $50,000. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp.

Application submittals should be addressed to Herminia Fusco, Chair, Commonwealth Zoning Board and must be received at the Zoning Office by February 19, 2010. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, at least three most recent (from 2008 to 2009) writing samples (personally authored), a CNMI Application For Employment, a resume and other documents as listed on the employment application checklist and as requested. The Application for Employment may be downloaded from the publications page of the Zoning Board website. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives. Send submittals to: E-mail: staff@zoning.gov.mp. FAX: 670-234-9666. US Mail: Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 USA. Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School System (PSS), Human Resources Office shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: **PSS-072-2006** Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE** **(Amendment / Re-Announcement VII)**
Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED** Per Annum Salary: **$50,000.00 - $65,000.00**
Opening Date: **February 5, 2010** Closing Date: **February 20, 2010**
Location: **PSS – OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays

Minimum Requirements:
Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Finance, and Accounting, or related field of study, plus five (5) years work experience and can either hold a valid licensure as a Certified Public Accountant; OR MA degree in Business Administration, Finance, and Accounting or related field of study, plus five (5) years related work experience, including three (3) years in Public auditing or Government auditing experience.

****The complete job description can be obtained at the PSS-Human Resources Office, 3rd Floor-Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill.**

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd FLOOR RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE; (2) TRANSCRIPTS; (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX0 MONTHS); (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER; (5) RESUME; AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

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Announcement No: **PSS-2009-094** Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **NETWORK SPECIALIST I – III (Amendment / Re-Announcement I)**
Pay Level/Step: **27, 29, 31 / 01 - 12** Per Annum Salary: **$19,511.46 - $40,531.43**
Opening Date: **February 2, 2010** Closing Date: **February 17, 2010**
Location: **PSS – ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays

Minimum Requirements:
Network Specialist I – Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with an AA / AS degree, plus one (1) year work related experience.
Network Specialist II – Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a BA degree, plus one (1) year work related experience OR AA / AS degree, plus three (3) years work related experience.
Network Specialist III – Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with an MA degree, plus five (5) years work related experience OR BA degree, plus seven (7) years work related experience.

****The complete job description can be obtained at the PSS-Human Resources Office, 3rd Floor-Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill.**

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd FLOOR RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE; (2) TRANSCRIPTS; (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS); (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER; (5) RESUME; AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

Lakers beat Spurs sans Bryant, Bynum

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pau Gasol had 21 points and 19 rebounds to lead five players in double figures, and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the San Antonio Spurs 101-89 Monday night without injured Kobe Bryant and Andrew Bynum.

Bryant missed his second consecutive game with a sore left ankle, while Bynum sat out with a bruised right hip.

In their absences, the Lakers used a collective effort to win in their final home game before this weekend's All-Star break. Ron Artest added 18 points, Lamar Odom 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Jordan Farmar and Derek Fisher had 13 each.

Manu Ginobili scored 21 points, Tony Parker 20, Tim Duncan had 16 points and 15 rebounds and Antonio McDyess 12 rebounds for the Spurs, who have lost four in a row to the Lakers at Staples Center.

Los Angeles again showed it could win without Bryant. The Lakers snapped a five-year losing streak at Portland with a victory Saturday, when Bryant ended his streak of 235 consecutive games played and Bynum missed the second half.

The Lakers extended their lead to 81-70 early in the fourth, equaling their largest lead to that point, capped by Shannon Brown's 3-pointer.

Mostly though, the final period was a messy affair, with the Spurs throwing the ball away on three occasions and the Lakers stumbling through a cold stretch after their strong start.

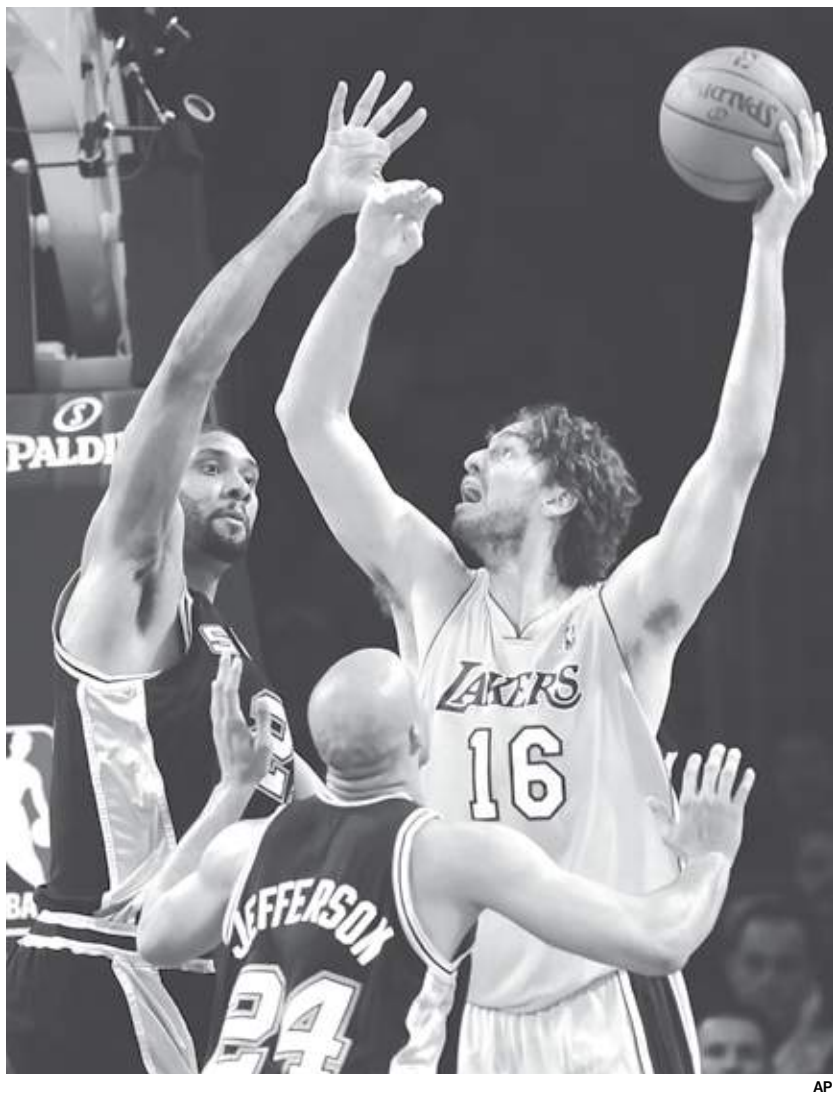
But they regrouped and ended the game on a 17-11 run after going 4 1/2 minutes without a field goal.

Los Angeles led 68-57 on a 14-4 run in the third. Gasol scored seven in a row and Odom had three. But the Spurs closed the quarter with an 11-5 spurt, capped by Ginobili's 3-pointer, to trail 73-68 going into the fourth.

Luke Walton, Sasha Vujacic, Farmar and Josh Powell started the second quarter for the Lakers along with Gasol. The youngsters' energy paid off as the Lakers scored the first seven points to take their first lead since early in the game.

The Lakers made 5 of 6 free throws to end the half ahead 50-47.

The Spurs raced to a 9-0 lead to open the game before Artest sparked the Lakers' offense with consecutive 3-pointers. Parker scored 12 of his 15 first-half points in the opening quarter when he wasn't dishing off in traffic.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers center Pau Gasol (16), of Spain, shoots over San Antonio Spurs forward Richard Jefferson (24) and San Antonio Spurs center Tim Duncan, left, in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Feb. 8, 2010, in Los Angeles.

Magic 123, Hornets 117

At Orlando, Florida, Vince Carter had a season-high 48 points to lead the Orlando Magic back from a 17-point second-half deficit to beat the New Orleans Hornets.

Carter was 19 for 27 shooting and had 34 points in the second half with some of the most sizzling moves since he joined the Magic, who have won nine of their last 11 games.

Dwight Howard added 25 points and 12 rebounds, and Rashard Lewis finished with 18 points for Orlando.

Peja Stojakovic had 29 points, and Darren Collison and David West added 27 points apiece for the Hornets, who have lost four of five since Chris Paul went down with an injured left knee.

Mavericks 127, Warriors 117

At Oakland, California, Jason Terry scored a season-high 36 points, including the go-ahead 3-pointer, as Dallas rallied from a 14-point deficit to beat Golden State.

Josh Howard and Drew Gooden also had season bests with 25 and 24 points respectively for the Mavericks. Jason Kidd added 17 points and 12 assists.

Anthony Morrow scored a season-high 33 points and had 11 rebounds to lead the Warriors, who lost their season-worst ninth straight, including five at home. Monta Ellis scored 27 points before leaving the game with an apparent right knee injury in the final four minutes.

Stephen Curry scored 25 points to go with nine assists.

NBA BRIEFS

Pacers' Jeff Foster out for season with back injury

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Indiana Pacers center Jeff Foster will miss the rest of the season with a back injury. The Pacers announced Monday that Foster will have surgery after the All-Star break. He is expected to be ready for training camp in the fall. The 6-foot-11 Foster has played in 16 games this season and averaged 3.1 points and 5.1 rebounds per game. The 10-year veteran is fourth in Pacers' history in games played with 697. The Pacers also are without rookie forward Tyler Hansbrough, who has been out since Jan. 16 with an inner ear infection and isn't even allowed to work out.

Cavaliers' Delonte West could return on Tuesday

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP)—Delonte West could return to the Cavaliers' lineup when Cleveland hosts New Jersey on Tuesday. Guard Mo Williams, out with a shoulder injury, says West will play against the Nets, although coach Mike Brown says he hasn't received final clearance. That could come Tuesday morning during shootaround. West has missed the last eight games with a broken left ring finger. He began practicing again last week. Williams is expected back around the beginning of March. The Cavaliers have won 11 straight without their top two point guards.

Bobcats' Tyson Chandler close to return, won't start

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Tyson Chandler arrived in Charlotte recovering from ankle and toe surgery. After slogging through the first third of the season with unimpressive results, he was shelved again with a stress reaction in his left foot. Finally healthy, Chandler is ready to return—and wary of fitting in with a team that hit its stride without him. Chandler participated in his first full practice Monday since being sidelined just before Christmas. After missing 22 games, Chandler says it's possible he could play some on Tuesday against Washington. When he returns, it won't be as a starter—at least not right away. "Under normal circumstances I would always start a guy who's been your starter," Bobcats coach Larry Brown said. "But I don't think this is normal circumstances because he hasn't had a lot of time on the floor. But let's hope he can come back (Tuesday). It's a nice problem to have." Nazr Mohammed, buried on the bench last season, has been one of the biggest surprises for the Bobcats (24-25), who sit in seventh place in the Eastern Conference as they vie for the franchise's first playoff berth.

Pohlad reiterates Twins desire to keep Mauer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Minnesota Twins have been spending their way out of that small-budget image, mirroring the imminent increase in revenue from their new ballpark with a big spike in player salary commitments.

Lead owner Jim Pohlad said it's a sustainable development. So even if the Twins sign Joe Mauer to a mammoth contract extension, they're not afraid it would cost too much to keep a contending-caliber core of players around the American League MVP.

"I think Target Field puts us in better position to make sure that we have a competitive team from year to year," Pohlad said Monday. "Names will come and names will go, but overall the objective is always to have the best team on the field."

The Pohlad family has consistently followed a model of keeping the annual player payroll pegged to 50 percent of team revenue, though in rebuilding years it's fallen well below that. At the Metrodome, there wasn't as much money coming in. This year, though, the payroll will rise by roughly $30 million to a team record above $95 million.

"All new ballparks have their peaks, and I'm sure the initial years will be very good to the Twins," Pohlad said. "Then it'll be up to us to sustain it after that, but the ballpark itself I think can sustain it for a long time."

In a question-and-answer session with reporters in a conference room overlooking a snow-covered Target Field, Pohlad dismissed the notion that the team has been trying to disprove a tightfisted reputation.

"We're not trying to show people," he said. "We're trying to do what we said we're going to do."

Pohlad declined to discuss specifics about negotiations with Mauer on a new deal, citing a pledge to the catcher and his agent to keep the details private. He said he's "absolutely not active at all" in the process, but reiterated the team's desire to keep the homegrown star around for good.

Pohlad said the Twins aren't interested in the possibility of deferred compensation as a way to make a rich long-term contract like Mauer's work.

"They make you feel real good at the time, and then later on you wish you hadn't done that," Pohlad said.

He also indicated an openness to signing Mauer for nine or 10 years, if that's what it would take. First baseman Justin Morneau's six-year contract signed two years ago is the current Twins record.

"I don't think six is a magic number," Pohlad said, adding: "Total value is what drives it. We do not have a term policy."

Since last August, the Twins have added multimillion-dollar players in Orlando Hudson, Jim Thome, J.J. Hardy, Carl Pavano and Jon Rauch. Fans, though, should not expect a spree like that every year.

"We're not going to spend the money just to spend the money," Pohlad said, adding: "We're going to try to put the best team on the field in the most prudent financial way, and I think we accomplished that this year."

Asked about general manager Bill Smith's praise last year for the ownership's approval of the late-season acquisitions, Pohlad quipped: "I think it was time for his review."

Pohlad also reiterated the family's philosophy of trusting the front office to take care of the roster and not meddling or micromanaging in the day-to-day operations of the organization. The family has a small empire of business interests, and the Twins take up between 20 percent and 30 percent of Pohlad's time.

They're fired up about this year's team, though, as they always are.

"We may be characterized as a relatively disengaged ownership group, but we do care about winning and losing," Pohlad said. "There may be one or two down years, but even during those years we're going to care and we're going to want to do better. I've said this a million times and my brothers are the same. We're fans."

Yankees add Thames, finalize Winn

NEW YORK (AP)—Marcus Thames agreed Monday to a minor league contract with the New York Yankees, who also finalized a $1.1 million, one-year deal with Randy Winn to give themselves more left field options.

Thames, who turns 33 next month, began his major league career with the Yankees in 2002 and homered on his first big league pitch that June 10 off Arizona's Randy Johnson. Thames was traded to Texas in June 2003 for Ruben Sierra, then let go by the Rangers after the season.

He spent the last six seasons with Detroit and hit .252 with 13 homers and 36 RBIs last year, down from 25 homers and 56 RBIs the previous season. He would get a $900,000, one-year contract if added to the 40-man roster and have the chance to earn an additional $900,000 in performance bonuses.

The right-handed-hitting Thames could find himself alongside center fielder Curtis Granderson, his former Tigers teammate, and complement the switch-hitting Winn, who hit .292 from the left side last year and .158 from the right. Thames batted .257 against lefties and .248 vs. righties.

Speedy Brett Gardner also is in the mix for outfield playing time.

Winn's $900,000 in performance bonuses are based on plate appearances against left-handed pitchers only. He would get $100,000 each for 50, 75 and 100, and $150,000 apiece for 125, 150, 175 and 200.

Winn's deal, reached Jan. 27 subject to a physical, pretty much eliminated any chance Johnny Damon had of returning to the World Series champions.

Winn hit .262 overall with two homers and 51 RBIs for San Francisco last season. The 35-year-old was an All-Star in 2002, when he batted .298 with 14 homers and 75 RBIs for Tampa Bay.

Payton, Brees bask in glory of New Orleans' title

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—Wearing Mardi Gras beads and clearly exhausted from a late night of post-Super Bowl celebrations, Sean Payton leaned on a podium, clutching the Vince Lombardi trophy in his right hand.

"You can't get enough of this," the Saints' head coach said at a news conference at the Fort Lauderdale convention center Monday morning. "This thing lay in my bed next to me last night, rolled over it a couple times. I probably drooled on it. But man, there's nothing like it."

Certainly, the New Orleans Saints never experienced anything like it.

Before this one, the Saints had only eight winning seasons—and two playoff victories—in their previous 42 years combined. New Orleans had to win three postseason games over three great quarterbacks—Kurt Warner, Brett Favre and Peyton Manning—to win the title this season.

The last quarterback standing was Drew Brees, who joined Payton in 2006 with the idea of transforming the Saints into champions for a region needing widespread rebuilding after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in August 2005.

That was easier said than done, but in their fourth season together, they did it. Brees was chosen the Super Bowl MVP after Sunday night's 31-17 victory over the Indianapolis Colts. After that, his only remaining challenge was believing he'd actually pulled it off.

"I had to wake up this morning and turn to my wife and say, 'Did yesterday really happen?'" Brees said.

"Our victory last night was the culmination of four years of hard work, fighting through a lot of adversity, ups and downs and more importantly than that, representing a city that has been through so much," Brees said.

"Along the way, people have asked me so many times, 'Do you look at it as a burden or extra pressure? Do you feel like you're carrying the weight of the city on your teams' shoulders.' I said, 'No, not at all. We look at it as a responsibility.' Our city, our fans, gave us strength and we owe this to them. ... There's no people that you would want to win for more than the city of New Orleans."

As Brees spoke, Payton sat off to the side, elbows on knees, face buried in his hands. When it was his turn to speak, he recounted Vince Lombardi's grandson, Saints assistant Joe Lombardi, posing for a photo with the sterling silver hardware bearing his last name.

"Joe Lombardi, his father, Vince Jr., and his two brothers sat and posed with this trophy, the four of them, while pictures were taken. And I just thought to myself, 'You've got to be kidding me,'" Payton said. "If you believe in heaven, and you believe Vince Lombardi is there looking down on his grandson, it doesn't get any better."

Payton said when all was quiet in the team hotel around 3 a.m., he offered a prayer of thanks for his team and his experience in New Orleans, where he became a head coach for the first time in 2006. The city was still largely in ruin then.

"When we got into coaching or playing, we got into it for certain reasons and yet the reasons in New Orleans far exceeded what we ever expected," Payton said.

The theme for the Saints in 2009 became: A season of firsts. They opened with their first 13-game winning streak, which earned them a first No. 1 seeding in the NFC playoffs. That led to a first home NFC title game, then a first Super Bowl.

Their run to the Super Bowl captured the attention of football fans everywhere. The game was watched by more than 106 million people, surpassing the 1983 finale of "M-A-S-H" to become the most-watched program in U.S. television history, the Nielsen Co. said Monday.

Commissioner Roger Goodell called this Super Bowl "clearly more than a game.

"I keep thinking of the word 'magical,'" he said. "When you think about the relationship between the Saints and the Gulf Coast and the city of New Orleans, it was more than just a football game and more than just a football team. The hopes, the dreams and the struggles of that community were all reflected in that football team. It was a great night for the people in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region."

Throughout the past week, Brees used the Super Bowl as a platform to promote New Orleans' recovery and express his adoration for the distinctive and historic city. After the Saints' Super Bowl triumph, Brees agreed to appear on the Late Show with David Letterman on Monday night.

"We're going to enjoy this for a while. I think New Orleans is enjoying it right this second, still," Brees said. "We don't expect anybody to go to work today in New Orleans, or maybe for the next two weeks considering Mardi Gras is next week.

"We know what it's like to build something from the ground up and just to feel like this is our time. ... I think what's going to be fun is using the term 'repeat' all next year."

In this Monday, Feb. 8, 2010 photo released by Disney, Super Bowl XLIV MVP, New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees joins Mickey Mouse in a parade in the Magic Kingdom in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., celebrating the Saints' 31-17 victory over the Indianapolis Colts in Sunday's Super Bowl.
AP

Colts hope loss fuels another Super Bowl run

MIAMI (AP)—Reggie Wayne stared right through all those reporters.

He wasn't bothered by the questions Sunday night. He just couldn't believe he and the Colts lost to his hometown New Orleans Saints in the Super Bowl.

Moments after Indianapolis came up one win short of a championship, the Pro Bowl receiver downplayed the disappointment by focusing on next season.

"I'd rather win than lose, but I think once we get this feeling out of the way, we'll be determined to come back and get another shot at it," Wayne said.

Who could blame him for being upset? He'll hear about this loss for years.

It won't be any easier for other Colts, who will constantly be reminded of blowing a 10-point lead in the Super Bowl and failing to live up to expectations following a near-perfect regular season.

"I felt like we played well this postseason," Peyton Manning said. "We played well in our first playoff game, played well two weeks ago and, at times, made some plays against the Saints. We just didn't play well enough to win."

The Colts compiled several impressive accomplishments this season:

■ They broke the NFL record for consecutive regular-season wins (23).

■ They set the league mark for wins in a decade (115).

■ They extended their own NFL mark of consecutive 12-win seasons to seven.

■ They completed seven fourth-quarter comebacks, also a league record.

■ Manning won his fourth MVP award, breaking a tie with Brett Favre for the most ever.

But they could have done so much more.

Late in December, the Colts were 14-0 and had a shot to join the 2007 New England Patriots as the only teams to go 16-0 in a regular season. But Indianapolis traded that chance for an opportunity to rest its starters down the stretch, figuring that was the best way to chase a second Super Bowl title in four years.

The Colts finished 14-2 in the regular season and 16-3 overall. Their 31-17 loss on Sunday to underdog New Orleans left both quests unfulfilled.

"I lost my last college game, too, and you never want to dwell on it," receiver Pierre Garcon said. "But it happens. You take it and use it as motivation to come back again next year."

Indy should look awfully familiar.

The likelihood of an uncapped season means players with less than six years' experience cannot become unrestricted free agents. The new rule will undoubtedly help the Colts, who started the season as the fifth-youngest team in average NFL experience (3.89 years).

The new rules also will prevent the Colts from making any splashy moves in free agency unless they lose a player. No big deal for a team that prefers to build through the draft anyway.

Jim Caldwell will enter his second season as head coach and he already has successors in place for retiring offensive line coach Howard Mudd, and offensive coordinator Tom Moore and team president Bill Polian if they decide to leave.

Indianapolis does have one big move to make—re-signing Manning, whose contract expires after next season.

But he's not going anywhere. Team owner Jim Irsay is prepared to make Manning the highest-paid quarterback in league history again.

"We'd like to get something done, sooner than later," Irsay said. "So once the season ends, we're going to be talking about that and hopefully getting something done before next season begins. It's something that's going to get done, so honestly, those aren't the ones you worry about."

The lack of movement and return of several injured players should make the Colts even stronger in 2010.

Former first-round pick Anthony Gonzalez was expected to have his breakout season after wide receiver Marvin Harrison was released in February. Gonzalez never got the chance, sustaining a knee injury in the first quarter of the season opener. That opened the door for Garcon, in his second season, and rookie Austin Collie, who both had big seasons.

With all three expected back next season, along with Pro Bowlers Wayne and tight end Dallas Clark, Manning could have his deepest and most experienced group of receivers since arriving in Indy in 1998.

Also expected back is 2007 NFL defensive player of the year Bob Sanders, who missed 17 of Indy's 19 games this season with a knee injury and torn biceps. Polian has repeatedly said Sanders will be healthy for training camp.

And the Colts think cornerback Marlin Jackson, their 2005 first-round pick, will return after tearing an ACL for the second straight season. In 2008, it was the right knee. This season, it was his left.

Even without those three players, the Colts still managed to reach the Super Bowl and come within 15 minutes of winning it. So they'll spend the offseason figuring out what it will take to get back to football's biggest game—and close it out.

"We're going to take our disappointment and let it fuel us a bit," Caldwell said. "We'll see what 2010 brings us."

Clottey training not picking up, say reports

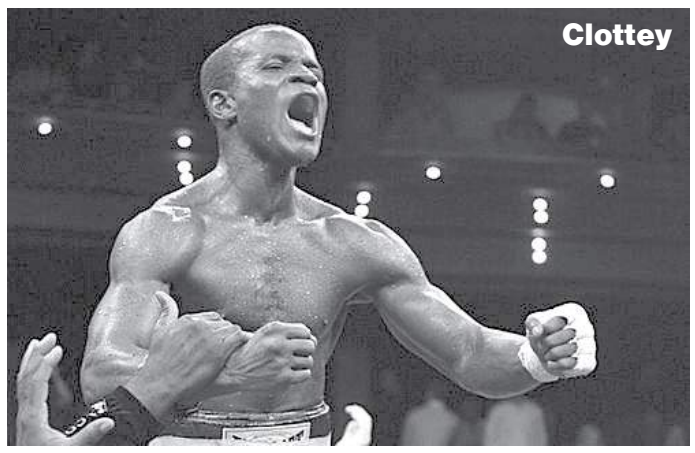
BOXING

MANILA, Philippines— Online boxing sites are buzzing with rumors that Joshua Clottey has yet to kick off his training for the biggest fight of his career, with several distractions getting in the way of the New York-based Ghanaian.

Two popular writers from Examiner.com reported that Clottey continues to train at half pace because his trainer of choice, Godwin Dzainie Kotey has yet to be granted an American visa and still cannot join the former world champion in training.

Vinny Scolpino, Clottey's manager, says a statement will be forthcoming during the week.

Clottey will face Filipino ring icon Manny Pacquiao on March 13 in Arlington, Texas, and while the reigning pound-for-pound champion has been doing runs, hitting the mitts and trading leather with sparring partners, Clottey


Clottey

reportedly has yet to move his training camp.

When the fight was announced, Clottey's camp had announced they were heading south to leave the cold New York climate so they will have a better training atmosphere.

"He's training in the Bronx yet he is supposed to shift his camp down to the warmer climes of my old residence, Fort Lauderdale," boxing expert Michael Marley posted on his blog Sunday.

Some reports have it that Clottey has already changed zip codes but hasn't gone full steam ahead yet in his training for Pacquiao pending the arrival of his trainer.

Five meals a day

Pacquiao, on the other hand has been relentless at the Wild Card gym, with his weight no longer a cause for concern in his camp.

"[Manny] is already in good shape," Pacquiao trainer Freddie Roach said in an interview with Fightnews.com.

Roach added that Pacquiao now even has to eat a lot so as not to lose too much weight during the training period.

"We have to keep the weight up and feed him five meals a day just to keep it up," said the topnotch trainer.

"He is doing great in sparring and we are studying his game plan as we watch Clottey tapes. He's not ready to fight yet but we have about four and a half weeks until fight night and he will be ready then."***(PDI)***

HEO

From Page 28

Clifford of New Zealand in the second round and Heo lost, 0-6, 3-6.

Before the tournament in Wellington, Heo was in Auckland last week for his second event, the 2010 Auckland 18 & Under ITF Summer Championships.

The CNMI bet had his best show in Auckland, winning his first two matches and advancing to the Round of 16. Heo topped Thailand's Sirawit Yumuang in the first round, 6-1, 6-2, and then stunned No. 14 seed Takuma Ohashi of New Zealand in three sets, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3. In the third round, Heo challenged the tournament No. 2 seed Ben Wagland of Australia and lost, 0-6, 2-6.

Heo earned 15 ranking points from the tournament in Auckland, moving up his ranking to No. 752 from No. 833. He achieved the No. 833 ranking after his first tournament in New Zealand, the 2010 Sunsmart 18 and Under Canterbury Championships.

The Sunsmart event was played in Christchurch, where Heo drew a bye in the first round. The CNMI netter then won his first match after a 6-2, 6-1 victory over New Zealand's Jake McCartney. Heo advanced to the Round of 16, but bowed to the eighth-seeded Chris Simich of New Zealand.

Heo left Saipan for New Zealand on Jan. 18 and was ranked No. 834 before competing in three off-island tournaments this month. He was with the Pacific Oceania Touring Team, joining Fiji's Chris Hargrove, who was ranked below 1,000.

Heo, who is so far the lone CNMI netter to break into the Junior ITF world rankings, will be back on Saipan later this week with a career record of 9-21 in both singles and doubles. He has only eight months to improve his record and earn more ranking points, as next year when he turns 19, he will no longer be eligible for the Junior ITF world rankings.

FIESTA

From Page 28

Rommel Manuel drilled a long trey, entering the final two minutes of the game to inch Cellular Pro closer, 71-74. Manuel made another shot from way beyond the 3-point area to threaten Fiesta anew, 78-74, with less than a minute left in the fourth quarter.

However, Cellular Pro could not complete its upset bid, as Fiesta canned important free throws down the stretch to preserve the lead. Elmer Esdrelon went 5-for-6, Adonis Macoto hit 2-for-2, and Edel Carino split his charities.

Esdrelon paced Fiesta with 24 points, earning 10 points from the foul line. Macoto and Carino also finished in double figures with the former adding 19 and the latter chipping in 13.

Fiesta led by as much as 16 in the second quarter, but played complacent in the second half, allowing Cellular Pro to move closer and threaten a comeback.

Roy Hernandez led Cellular Pro's losing cause, firing 11 points. Manuel tallied 14, making 12 of them from downtown.

In the second game, World Resort and Bank of Guam were at it in the first three quarters before the former stepped on the pedal in the final canto en route to a 12-point win.

Wowie Abuel top-scored for World Resort/Advance, nailing 21 points, including seven markers in the final quarter. Julius Tabamo made five of his 15 markers in the fourth, while guards Dennis Vinas and Mike Olaitiman contributed 14 apiece.

The much quicker backcourt players of World Resort—Abuel, Vinas, and Olaitiman—seemed to be too much for Bank of Guam. The trio combined for 11 of World Resort's 22 points in the fourth period.

World Resort led by only six at the end of the third period, but started pulling away in the fourth behind its backcourt players and Tabamo and Ritual. Ritual was scoreless in the first three quarters, making all his four points in the fourth canto.

Jeff Quitugua led Bank of Guam with his 16 points. He and Dexter Mendiola were the only two BoG players to finish in double figures with the latter drilling 10 markers, six in the fourth quarter. The rest of Bank of Guam players struggled on offense in the second half, making no more than one field goal in the last 20 minutes of the match.

First Game

Fiesta 81 – Esdrelon 24, Macoto 19, Carino 13, Saures 8, de la Torre 7, Ong 4, Salazar 4, Valdez 2.

Cellular Pro 74 – Hernandez 22, Manuel 14, Rotap 13, Dulfo 12, Villanueva 10, J. Loste 2, A. Loste 1.

Scoring by quarters: 19-10, 41-28, 58-53, 81-74.

Second Game

World Resort 77 – Abuel 21, Tabamo 15, Olaitiman 14, Vinas 14, Wabinga 4, Ritual 4, Apasan 2, Sayas 2.

Bank of Guam 65 – Quitugua 16, Mendiola 10, D. Palacios 8, G. Palacios 8, Peters 8, Taitano 7, Pelisamen 5, Coldeen 5.

Scoring by quarters: 19-16, 37-35, 55-49, 77-65.

6-PACK

From Page 28

With two outs, Babauta stepped onto the plate and singled, bringing Aldan home and giving 6-Pack the lead, 19-18. Extra hitter Derrick Tudela was beaten to first base to end the inning for 6-Pack.

6-Pack then preserved the lead and stole the win when it played tough defense at the bottom of the seventh inning. Calikano had a chance to tie the game when leadoff batter D.J. Omar reached third base. With Omar on third and two outs, 6-Pack pitcher Blas Magofna struck out right fielder Mario Salas.

Lancheros 16, Fuegu 4

In the first game of the triple-header, Lancheros needed only five innings to beat Fuegu, 16-4.

Lancheros defense allowed Fuegu to no more than two runs in an inning, giving the former an easy win via a 10-run mercy rule. Fuegu tallied two runs at the bottom of the third and had only one run apiece in the second and fourth inning.

Catcher Bill Aguon and second baseman James Kintol led Lancheros' offense, drilling three RBIs each. Aguon was 3-for-4 at bat and scored three runs and two doubles. Kintol was 2-for-3 and recorded two runs and a double.

With the win, Lancheros snapped their three-game losing skid and improved to a 3-6 mark. Fuegu remained at the bottom of the team standings with a 1-9 slate.

San Roque 21, Red Eye 5

San Roque also took a short route to victory, downing Red Eye after only five innings, 21-5.

An eight-run top of the first gave San Roque early momentum and it started breaking the game wide open with another eight-run output in the third inning. Red Eye was shutout in the first two innings and had its best performance at the bottom of the third, making three runs.

E.J. Tenorio and Wally Emur Jr. hit three RBIs each for San Roque, which now has a 6-2 record. Red Eye absorbed back-to-back loss and dropped to a 3-7 mark.

NMASA

From Page 28

don Kosam, outrigger canoe's Gil Birnbrich, baseball's Tony Rogolifoi, and athletics and basketball's Elias Rangamar. On Jan. 21, the board held a meeting to elect its officers.

White thanked NMASA members for expressing confidence in the new leadership and vowed to do their best to continue serving the sports community, particularly the CNMI athletes.

White said NMASA's focus for this year will be the Commonwealth's participation in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau in August.

With six months to go before the quadrennial event, only basketball, athletics, swimming, baseball, lawn tennis, sailing, and table tennis have committed to send delegates to the Micro Games.

Fifteen disciplines are included in the calendar of events in Palau: basketball, baseball, lawn tennis, swimming, triathlon, athletics, Micro All-Around, outrigger canoe, spear-fishing, fast-pitch softball, table tennis, weightlifting, beach volleyball, indoor volleyball, and wrestling. The Games will run from Aug. 1 to 10.

The 2006 edition of the Micro Games was held on Saipan with the CNMI placing runner-up to Guam. The CNMI got the most medals with 98, but tallied only 34 gold, 33 silver, and 31 bronze. Guam had a 51-27-18 tally. Palau was third with its 27 gold, 16 silver, and 21 bronze medals. Chuuk claimed six gold, 10 silver, and 12 bronze, Pohnpei had a 5-15-17 tally, Kiribati had 5-7-5, the Marshall Islands had 3-5-12, Kosrae had 3-3-2, and Yap had 2-7-3.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	32	17	.653	–
Toronto	28	23	.549	5
New York	19	31	.380	13 1/2
Philadelphia	19	31	.380	13 1/2
New Jersey	4	46	.080	28 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	35	17	.673	–
Atlanta	32	17	.653	1 1/2
Charlotte	24	25	.490	9 1/2
Miami	24	27	.471	10 1/2
Washington	17	32	.347	16 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	41	11	.788	–
Chicago	24	25	.490	15 1/2
Milwaukee	23	26	.469	16 1/2
Indiana	18	33	.353	22 1/2
Detroit	17	32	.347	22 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	32	19	.627	–
San Antonio	29	21	.580	2 1/2
Houston	27	23	.540	4 1/2
Memphis	26	24	.520	5 1/2
New Orleans	27	25	.519	5 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	34	17	.667	–
Utah	31	18	.633	2
Oklahoma City	29	21	.580	4 1/2
Portland	30	23	.566	5
Minnesota	13	38	.255	21

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	40	13	.755	–
Phoenix	31	21	.596	8 1/2
L.A. Clippers	21	29	.420	17 1/2
Sacramento	16	34	.320	22 1/2
Golden State	13	37	.260	25 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Orlando 123, New Orleans 117
Dallas 127, Golden State 117
L.A. Lakers 101, San Antonio 89

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, CLE	52	522	407	1548	29.8
Anthony, DEN	38	384	327	1130	29.7
Durant, OKC	50	488	435	1484	29.7
Bryant, LAL	51	527	302	1426	28.0
Wade, MIA	51	483	349	1369	26.8
Ellis, GOL	47	484	220	1232	26.2
Nowitzki, DAL	49	436	324	1225	25.0
Bosh, TOR	51	444	351	1245	24.4
Roy, POR	40	328	213	924	23.1
Johnson, ATL	49	420	146	1073	21.9
Stoudemire, PHX	52	413	274	1100	21.2
Maggette, GOL	47	312	343	977	20.8
Jackson, CHA	49	367	203	1011	20.6
Randolph, MEM	50	412	195	1025	20.5
Evans, SAC	45	332	227	915	20.3
Kaman, LAC	44	370	147	887	20.2
Lee, NYK	50	419	159	997	19.9
Rose, CHI	49	411	149	976	19.9
Gay, MEM	48	365	185	953	19.9
Brooks, HOU	50	344	164	977	19.5

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	220	356	.618
Howard, ORL	294	492	.598
Gasol, MEM	278	471	.590
Hilario, DEN	267	460	.580
Bynum, LAL	305	537	.568
Millsap, UTA	225	398	.565
Haywood, WAS	185	330	.561
Horford, ATL	274	489	.560
O'Neal, CLE	220	394	.558
Lee, NYK	419	751	.558

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	51	184	499	683	13.4
Camby, LAC	49	160	433	593	12.1
Noah, CHI	46	176	376	552	12.0
Randolph, MEM	50	215	361	576	11.5
Lee, NYK	50	127	446	573	11.5
Bosh, TOR	51	155	428	583	11.4
Wallace, CHA	47	95	417	512	10.9
Boozer, UTA	46	89	406	495	10.8
Duncan, SAN	46	150	342	492	10.7
Haywood, WAS	48	196	300	496	10.3

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Paul, NOR	38	424	11.2
Nash, PHX	52	576	11.1
Rondo, BOS	48	471	9.8
Williams, UTA	44	428	9.7
Kidd, DAL	49	455	9.3
James, CLE	52	425	8.2
B. Davis, LAC	50	396	7.9
Westbrook, OKC	50	375	7.5
Wade, MIA	51	327	6.4
Jennings, MIL	49	308	6.3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

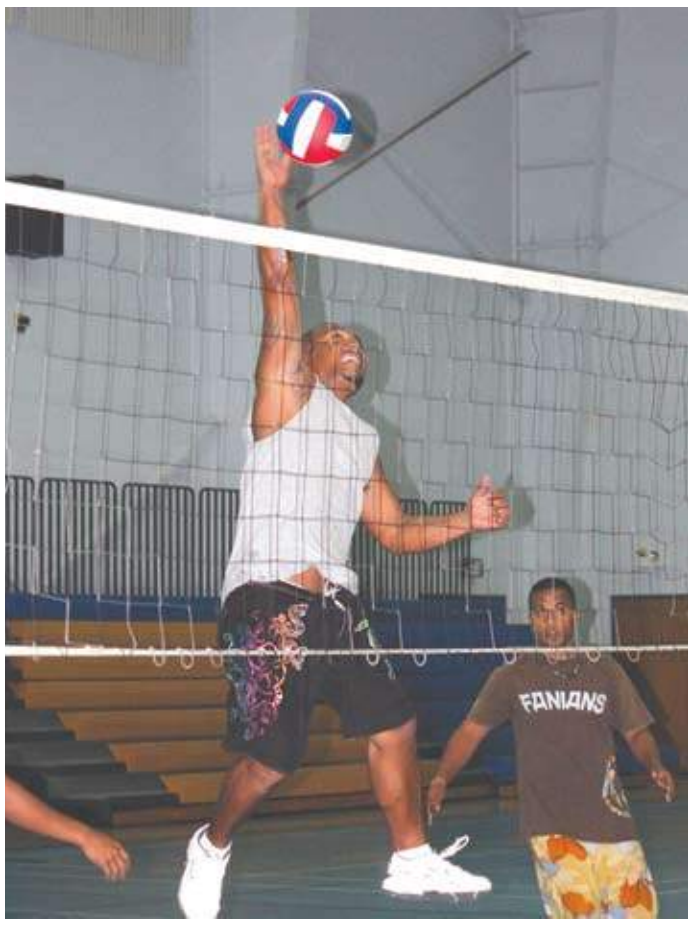
LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Natibu	8	0
Island Rebels	7	0
Man Amigos	9	1
Chura	7	1
SaiPal	7	2
Freedom Air Flyers	6	3
Ur Balls	6	2
San Roque	6	2
Hitz	5	3
Blazers	4	4
6-Pack	5	4
Go For Broke	3	6
Red Eye	3	7
Calikano-Falcons	3	7
Lancheros	3	6
G-Ballers	2	7
Ramblers	2	8
Berdax	1	5
Team Familia	1	6
X-Terminators	1	7
Team Fuegu	1	9

World Organized Rocball Community League Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

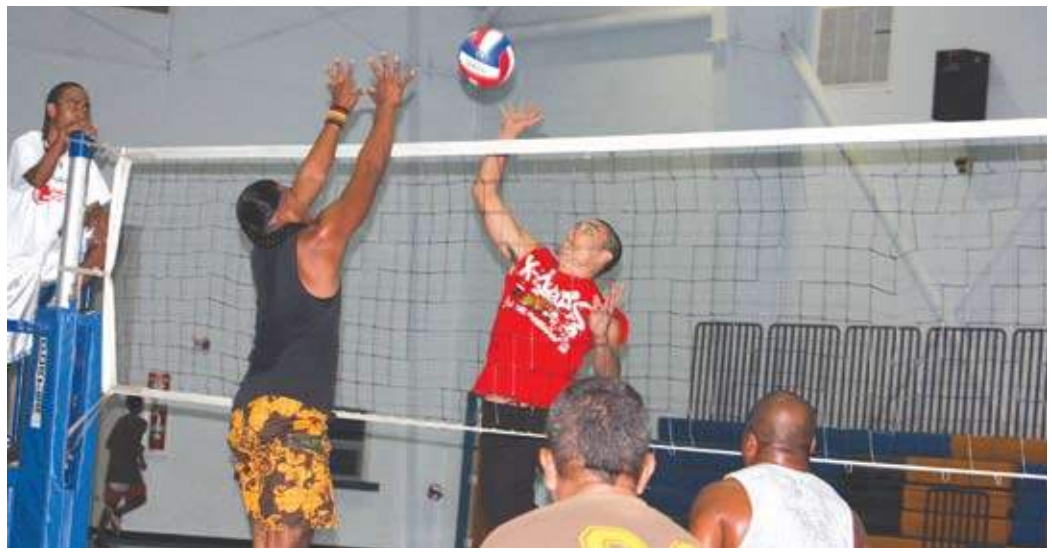


The Fanians Jazz Roscow goes for a hit at the net.

The Fanians pose for a group photo after beating Soul Rebels in a best-of-three title series in the 2009-2010 World Organized Rocball Community League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Fanians' Typhoon Saito leaps for kee.

Soul Rebels' Marciano Lisua jumps for a return against the Fanians.



The Fanians' Larry Sharry, left, attempts to block Soul Rebels' Marciano Lisua.

Soul Rebels' Jimmy Pua returns to the Fanians while teammate John Nekaifes looks on.

The Fanians' Juluis Saito goes for a toss.

The Fanians' Youme Sharry, left, battles Soul Rebels' John Nekaifes at the net.

Soul Rebels' Ben Lisua hits a kee.

Soul Rebels' Marciano Igisomar servers during Game 1 of their title series against the Fanians.

Payton, Brees bask in glory of New Orleans' title

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Sports

Lakers beat Spurs sans Bryant, Bynum

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Heo continues rankings rise

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI's Ji Hoon Heo continued his uphill climb in the ITF Junior world rankings, moving more than 100 notches up after completing his third and last tournament in New Zealand.

From No. 752 after his second tournament in New Zealand, Heo is now ranked No. 635, upping his ranking points to 45. It was a great advance birthday gift for the 17-year-old netter who will be turning 18 this Saturday.

"The CNMI tennis community is delighted to see that Ji Hoon Heo is currently ranked No. 635 in the ITF Junior world rankings. Many thanks and appreciation to all those who have helped Ji Hoon along the way, in particular his parents, who have been such strong supporters of him, both morally and financially," CNMI coach and Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association president Jeff Race said in an e-mail circulated to members of the Commonwealth's tennis community.

Heo had his last tournament on Monday through the 2010 Tennis Central 18 & U ITF Summer Championships, a Grade 4 event in the Junior ITF Circuit and is being played at the Renouf Tennis Centre in Wellington.

He won his opening match in the hard court event, beating New Zealand's Olly Zadler in straight sets, 6-4, 6-0. The Marianas High School student was pitted against No. 11 seed David

See HEO on Page 34

CNMI netter Ji Hoon Heo, seen here in action in a local tournament last year, moved up to No. 635 in the ITF Junior world rankings after completing his three tournaments in New Zealand.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Fiesta, World Resort/Advance thwart foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and World Resort/Advance outclassed separate foes to enter the win column in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League.

Fiesta thwarted the persistent Cellular Pro, 81-74, in the first match of Day 2 of the Shirley's caging on Monday night at the JP Center Basketball Court. In the second game, World Resort/Advance X-Terminators outplayed Bank of Guam, 77-65.

World Resort and Fiesta now join opening day victors Micronesian Brokers, Inc. and TBK Auto Shop in the winners circle. Defending champion MBI beat host Shirley's, while TBK downed Pepsi during the league's opening on Sunday.

Fiesta flirted with danger in the last two minutes of the game when it had its double-digit lead cut down to as low as three points.

See FIESTA on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Jimmy Salazar, left, is harassed by two Cellular Pro defenders at the backcourt after a rebound play during their game in the Shirley's caging on Monday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

NMASA board elects officers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association's Michael A White was reelected president during the NMASA board's meeting late last month.

Also elected as officers of the NMASA board and will be serving for one year were tennis' Jeff Race, vice president; baseball's Rose Igitol, secretary general; and football and volleyball's Ed Salas, treasurer.

White, Race, Igitol, and Salas were among the nine NMASA board members selected during the association's 2010 election last month. Joining them are golf's Jess Wabol and Jor-

See NMASA on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Michael A. While, right, seen here joining Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan and Shirley's Coffee Shop general manager Susan Macario in the opening of the Shirley'caging on Sunday, was reelected president of the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association.

6-Pack slips past Calikano

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Second baseman Mel Aldan went perfect at the plate, hitting a crucial two-run double in the seventh inning, while Frank Babauta made a one-run single to lift 6-Pack to a 19-8 win over Calikano-Falcons during their game in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League on Monday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The victory snapped 6-Pack two-game losing skid and improved its record to 5-4. Calikano dropped to a 3-7 mark.

6-Pack was behind by two runs, 16-18, after six complete innings. Dan Repeki led off for 6-Pack at the top of the seventh, had a walk, and made it to third on Calikano's error. Paul Pua was next at bat and had a fielder's choice before advancing to second. Aldan was the third batter and blasted a double, driving Repeki and Calikano home to tie the game, 18-all.

6-Pack's next two batters were thrown out with Jeff Repeki flying out to centerfield and Calikano pitcher Emoa Iguel catching John Magofna's line drive.

See 6-PACK on Page 34

A 6-Pack batter waits for the pitch during one of their games in the Chamolinian softball league at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO